SUPREME COURT, U. S.

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IN THE

Supreme Court of the United States

October Term, 1974.

No. 74-546

THE HONORABLE J. WILLIAM DITTER, JR.,
Petitioner,

v.

PHILADELPHIA NEWSPAPERS, INC. and SUSAN Q. STRANAHAN, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, FREDERICK SCHIAVO,
Respondents.

PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE THIRD CIRCUIT.

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OCTOBER TERM, 1974.

No. .

THE HONORABLE J. WILLIAM DITTER, JR.,
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v.

PHILADELPHIA NEWSPAPERS, INC. AND
SUSAN Q. STRANAHAN,
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
FREDERICK SCHIAVO,
Respondents.

PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE THIRD CIRCUIT.

To the Honorable Chief Justice, and the Associate Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States:

The Honorable J. William Ditter respectfully prays that a writ of certiorari issue to review the judgment on rehearing order and *en banc* opinion of the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit entered in this proceeding on 8 August 1974, and the orders entered by said Court on 22 August 1974, 23 August 1974 and 23 October 1974 amending the aforesaid *en banc* opinion.

OPINION BELOW.

The *en banc* opinion of the Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit is to be found in — F. 2d — (C. A. 3, 1974) and, with its amendments of 22 August 1974, 23 August 1974 and 23 October 1974, appears in the Appendix hereto. The aforesaid *en banc* opinion contains an opinion written by Circuit Judge Van Dusen in which Chief Judge Seitz and Circuit Judges Rosenn and Hunter joined; a concurring opinion written by Circuit Judge Adams in which Circuit Judges Gibbons and Garth joined; and a dissenting opinion written by Circuit Judge Aldisert in which Circuit Judge Weis joined.

JURISDICTION.

The judgment and order of the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit were entered on 8 August 1974. The jurisdiction of this Court is invoked under 28 U. S. C. § 1254(1).

QUESTIONS PRESENTED.

1. Is not the decision below an unauthorized promulgation of new District Court procedural rules which can only be valid through the exercise of this Court's supervisory power and due submission to Congress?

2. Does not the decision below significantly compromise Sixth Amendment guarantees of an impartial jury and fair trial by effectively denying District Judges the power to prohibit publicity prejudicial to the criminally accused?

FEDERAL CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS AND STATUTES INVOLVED.

The texts of the Federal Constitutional Amendments and statutes involved are set out in the Appendix hereto.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE.

The Proceeding in the District Court.

On 1 June 1973 respondent Schiavo was indicted by a Federal Grand Jury on perjury charges growing out of the Grand Jury's investigation of the bombing death of one Martin Alan Hess, a Government informer. Shortly before his scheduled testimony in a narcotics trial Hess was killed when his automobile exploded.

On 3 October 1973 Schiavo's perjury trial by jury commenced in Philadelphia before petitioner who is a Judge of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. In his preliminary statement to the jury petitioner instructed it, "to avoid reading or listening or talking about any matter that might involve this case, however remote it might be." (J. A. p. 4).[1]

> "Remember, that you are sworn to try this defendant, to try this case both from the standpoint of the government and the standpoint of the defendant fairly and impartially and I don't want anything that you might read, that you might think would be important to creep into your knowledge or deliberations or your thoughts or anything of that nature." (J. A. p. 4).

The next morning respondent Philadelphia Newspapers, Inc.'s daily paper of general circulation, *The Philadelphia Inquirer* ("*The Inquirer*") published a story under the by-line of respondent Susan Q. Stranahan. It gave background about defendant Schiavo, stating in its opening sentence that he was "One of five men charged with conspiring to kill a government informer . . ." (J. A. p. 102). That afternoon, at defense counsel's request (J. A. pp. 22-

1. All subsequent "J. A." references are to the Joint Appendix below which has been certified as part of the record in this Court.

23), petitioner called members of the press to side bar and made this request:

> "Lady and gentlemen, the defendant in this case is charged with perjury. There is an article in this morning's Inquirer which points out that he was also charged with another crime.
>
> I would ask you, please, that if you feel that you must write about this case, write about this case and not about other cases. It makes it most difficult to carry on a criminal trial if this sort of thing happens, and I would ask each of you, please, to try to be aware of the problem with the Court and criminal defendants.
>
> I know I can't tell you what to write, but I would hope that you would be aware of the problems that you create, at least." (J. A. pp. 23-24).

The next morning, 5 October 1973, another article bearing respondent Stranahan's by-line was published in *The Inquirer*. It carried an account of the previous day's trial, repeated the paper's earlier statement regarding the conspiracy-to-murder indictment against Schiavo, and added that Schiavo was also charged "with first-degree murder in New Jersey" (J. A. p. 103).

At about 2:00 p.m. that afternoon petitioner met again with members of the news media covering the trial. Following an off-the-record discussion with them, petitioner stated:

> "I told them all that while they could print that which went on in the courtroom so far as this trial is concerned they were not to write nor were their papers to print matters that were not said here in the courtroom. . . . And specifically I told Miss Stranahan that she had in a story bylines that had been pointed out that

this defendant had been indicted in New Jersey and had been indicted for other offenses in this jurisdiction. I said that there was to be no repetition of that story or those facts and that if it were repeated I would consider it a matter of contempt of court and I would consider holding her liable for contempt and holding her editors liable for contempt.

Mr. Enoch [Associated Press reporter]: Would you agree that without the known connection between Mr. Schiavo and the Hess murder this trial seems to be very little without the——

The Court: I didn't say anything about your not printing that which is said here in the courtroom. I am talking about information that has not come out in the course of the trial and there have been many references to Martin Alan Hess in the course of this trial.

Mr. Enoch: How about information we can find in our libraries at the different papers?

The Court: If it hasn't come out here in this courtroom I would consider that contempt." (J. A. pp. 49-50).

Two hours later that afternoon, after the jury had been adjourned and departed for a three-day weekend, David H. Marion, Esq., counsel for respondent publisher of *The Inquirer* and respondent Stranahan, appeared in petitioner's courtroom. He indicated that he clearly understood the scope of petitioner's order respecting silence about the other crimes of which Schiavo was accused. He told petitioner:

". . . [W]e are advised that there was placed in the record today in this case an Order directed to the Philadelphia Inquirer, to Miss Stranahan particularly . . . that no reference be made to the fact that there are other indictments pending against Mr. Schiavo, the

> defendant in this case, in other jurisdictions which relate to the circumstances about which he is being prosecuted here." (J. A. p. 54).

Mr. Marion then moved petitioner to reconsider and vacate his silence order "on the ground that it is a classic prior restraint on the exercise of First Amendment rights." (J. A. p. 54). Following a colloquy between them, petitioner said:

> "All I am asking is that for one more day until this case is over you do not publish that the man is indicted somewhere else and I really do not think that is a bit unfair." (J. A. p. 58).

Immediately thereafter petitioner returned to his chambers for the first time that afternoon since he had entered his silence order, drafted, personally typed and entered a written order denying the motion to vacate and a motion for a stay.

Later that afternoon Mr. Marion filed a motion for a stay in the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit and a Notice of Appeal in the District Court.

The next day—Saturday, 6 October 1973—*The Inquirer* and the *Philadelphia Daily News*, another paper of general circulation, ran stories repeating those previously published charges against Schiavo which were not involved in the trial before petitioner, and also reported that they had been ordered not to refer to those charges. The three-column headline in the *Daily News* published that day read: "Judge Curbs Press at Slay Trial" (J. A. pp. 108-109).

A three-day holiday weekend ensued, and on Tuesday, 9 October 1973, the Schiavo perjury trial resumed. Defense counsel moved twice that day for a mistrial based on the articles published on 6 October. Both motions were denied

(J. A. pp. 64-65, 100). Schiavo was convicted of perjury on 10 October 1973, and on 14 May 1974 petitioner denied Schiavo's motion for a new trial. Schiavo's appeal is presently pending in the Court of Appeals below.

The Proceeding in the Court of Appeals.

On 10 October 1973 the Court of Appeals below heard oral argument and granted the motion for a stay brought on by respondents Stranahan and the publisher of *The Inquirer*. These respondents pursued two courses in that Court: (1) an appeal from petitioner's denial of their request to vacate the silence order, and (2) a petition for a writ of mandamus and/or prohibition seeking to bar the enforcement of the silence order. The Court of Appeals consolidated the appeal and the petition.

Respondent Schiavo's appeal from his conviction was not involved in this proceeding in the Court of Appeals nor is it involved in the instant petition for a writ of certiorari. He took no part in this appeal below. As the issues were joined in the Court of Appeals, respondents Stranahan and her employer publisher, as well as *amici curiae* The New York Times Company and American Newspaper Publishers Association, pressed the appeal and the petition. Respondent United States of America appeared by its counsel in opposition to the appeal and petition.[2]

A three-judge panel initially heard argument in the Court of Appeals which then ordered *en banc* reargument. On 8 August 1974 the Court of Appeals issued its *en banc* opinion, entered judgment, reversed and remanded the respondents' appeal, and ordered their petition "denied as moot, in accordance with the opinion of this Court."

This petition for a writ of certiorari follows.

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2. The United States of America, as well as Schiavo, are designated respondents on the instant petition for a writ of certiorari solely to comply with that portion of Rules of Supreme Court 21.6 which states: "All parties other than the petitioner shall be respondents . . . ".

REASONS FOR GRANTING THE WRIT.

Introduction.

The just and effective administration of criminal law is an overarching concern of American society today. Because theirs is invariably the first and often the final responsibility for achieving and safeguarding this goal in our federal judicial system, District Judges in literally every federal trial court in the nation are in the most realistic sense deeply and immediately affected by the issues presented in this petition.

The dispute in the case at bar is, as the plurality opinion below correctly notes, "capable of repetition", *Southern Pacific Terminal Co. v. ICC*, 219 U. S. 498, 515 (1911). It is not overstating the matter to suggest that this repetition is inevitable as the public's concern about the administration of criminal justice intensifies. The quality of that justice is intimately related to two factors: (1) the trial judge's ability to perform his heavy responsibilities within a clear, workable and fair legal definition of those judicial obligations, and (2) the extent to which that definition can be applied by District Judges with substantive uniformity throughout the entire federal judicial system.

Petitioner respectfully submits that if the decision below is allowed to stand, the confusion and consequent needless additional litigation it will generate, the serious diminution of the District Judge's power to insure fair trial, and the disparate treatment of the same issue it will cause among the circuits can only compromise the goal of administering criminal law justly, effectively and uniformly throughout our federal courts.

I. The Decision Below Raises So Significant a Departure From the Accepted and Usual Role of a Court of Appeals as to Call for the Exercise of This Court's Power of Supervision.

The heart of the plurality's legal justification for its opinion appears in this language (p. 11):[3] ". . . we have concluded, *pursuant to our supervisory powers*, [fn.] that the oral silence order was procedurally deficient." (emphasis supplied). Having invoked that claim of supervisory powers, it then proceeds to lay down new rules imposing upon the District Court a set of obligations which are as unworkably abstract and rigidly formal as they are lacking in any authority to support their promulgation in this unprecedented manner.

The formalities involve the reduction of a silence order to writing, the specific statement of its terms, and its entry upon the District Court docket (p. 11). For none of these new requirements does the plurality opinion cite any statutory authority, any directions from the Supreme Court, or any decisional law. The only suggestions for justification are analogies (pp. 11, 12) the plurality seeks to draw to Rule 55 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure requiring the docketing of "each order or judgment of the court", and Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 54 ("Judgment; Costs"), 53 ("Entry of Judgment"), 65(d) ("Injunctions . . . Form and Scope of Injunction of Restraining Order"), and 79(a) ("Books and Records Kept by the Clerk and Entries Therein . . . Civil Docket").

Putting aside the realistic root questions of how this new set of requirements actually does anything to advance

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3. All subsequent references to pages in the *en banc* opinion below are to the pagination as it appears in the text annexed to this petition.

either the cause of "an impartial jury" which the District Judge is bound to vouchsafe under the Sixth Amendment, or the values in the First Amendment, it appears that all of these new rules are to be applied only to:

> ". . . such an order which is immediately appealable as a final decision in a collateral matter, and where such order binds non-parties for a continuing period of time . . ." (p. 11).

When a District Judge is faced with the real and present possibility, as petitioner was here, that accounts such as these in the media could prejudice a jury in the midst of a trial, who is to make the determination (let alone how and when it is to be made) of whether or not a proposed order "is immediately appealable as a final decision in a collateral matter?"

The often difficult legal problem of making this determination is illustrated by the very appeal involved here. If the Court of Appeals went through the understandably challenging and time-consuming inquiry of making that determination in this very case, it is reasonably foreseeable that the same kind of difficulty can be anticipated in the District Court, whether the obligation fall upon counsel or the District Judge or both.

Furthermore, what is now imposed upon the District Courts in the Third Circuit is a set of rules which are so vague as to invite a new layer of rules covering, for example, time limitations on hearing notices and definitions of procedures. Beyond that, they show no regard for the gap between notice of hearing and the order during which the most adverse kind of publicity can occur.

But even if this new group of rules served constitutional values, and were in fact genuinely workable, we submit that in the clear statutory scheme of our federal

judiciary, the Court of Appeals was without authority to issue such rules in the exercise of its "supervisory powers". In fact and in law, on such subjects as this, Courts of Appeals are without such power.

It is clear even from the concurring opinion below that the invocation of such assumed power was unsound. Writing for the concurring Circuit Judges, Judge Adams said:

> "I would not invoke our supervisory powers, assuming such powers may be invoked in the context of the dispute presented here, to require the district courts to follow certain procedures . . ." (p. 14).

On three other occasions the concurring opinion again questions the assumption that there is such power in the court on this issue. It calls such reliance "disquieting" (p. 19) and rejects reliance "in this case on the rubric of 'supervising powers.'" (p. 19). See also p. 27.

The new rules which District Judges in the Third Circuit are now expected to follow are legally unauthorized, and the dissent below accurately discloses that. Writing for the minority, Judge Aldisert states:

> "But this court has no power to prescribe procedural rules for the governance of the district courts. That power is vested, by statute, in the Supreme Court. 18 U. S. C. §§ 3771, 3772; 28 U. S. C. §§ 2072, 2075. At the very most, the suggestions of the plurality should have been directed to the Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure of the Judicial Conference of the United States, 28 U. S. C. § 331, instead of incorporating them by judicial fiat in an in banc opinion (p. 28) "

An examination of these authorities thoroughly documents the existence of that power in this Court, and not

in Courts of Appeals. The opening paragraph of 28 U. S. C. § 2072 speaks unambiguously regarding the civil rule-making power for District Courts. It is in this Court. Indeed, even that power is subject to a strict statutory scheme set out in this provision of the Code which renders District Court civil rules promulgated by this Court subject to submission to Congress before they may become effective.

The same distribution of rule-making power applies to criminal matters. 18 U. S. C. § 3771, § 3772. Thus, whether this set of rules be considered civil or criminal, the Court of Appeals had no authority to promulgate them.

The dissent's observation that the Judicial Conference of the United States might be the appropriate forum for "the suggestions of the plurality" squares precisely with the statutory purpose of the Conference. 28 U. S. C. § 331. That statute's statement of the purpose of the Conference suggests a powerful reason for the grant of the writ on this ground alone. It charges the Conference with responsibility for surveying the federal courts and submitting suggestions to them "*in the interest of uniformity* and expedition of business." (Emphasis supplied.)

In terms of judicial administration, the promulgation of these new rules runs directly afoul of the principle of uniformity throughout the federal system. Litigants, counsel, media, and District Court Judges participate at their respective perils in a judicial process where a set of rules on an extremely serious and sensitive subject involving the balance between a free press and the integrity of the criminal trial applies in one circuit but not in any other.

The principle of uniformity exists not for the sake of empty consistency, but to guarantee that citizens will

find justice of equal quality given in every federal court in the nation. It is a concept of essential fairness, the same concept which the dissent in the Court of Appeals also found violated when the decision below "reversed [the trial court] for failing to follow in October, 1973, rules which were not conceived until August, 1974." (p. 29). *Fisher v. Volz*, 496 F. 2d 333, 350-351 (C. A. 3, 1974).

II. The Decision Below Has Substantially Decided an Important Question of Federal Law Which Has Not Been, But Should Be, Settled by This Court. As It Stands, the Decision Disserves "the Most Fundamental of All Freedoms", the Right to a Fair Trial.

This case presents an issue of a magnitude and significance such that we respectfully submit it may fairly be regarded as this Court viewed *Linkletter v. Walker*, 381 U. S. 618 (1965): "we granted certiorari in order to settle what has become a most troublesome question in the administration of justice" (at 381 U. S. 620).

The nature of modern technology with its power of massive and near instantaneous communication places the news media in an unprecedented situation today:

> ". . . the potential of the news media to influence the outcome of court proceedings, long recognized as a likelihood, was finally seen to be more than theoretical."

United States v. Dickinson, 465 F. 2d 496 (C. A. 5, 1972), cert. denied, 414 U. S. 979 (1973).

In addition, no era in American history has witnessed such understandably widespread concern about crime as the age we live in. The media's capacity to reach masses of such a fearful public almost instantaneously presents

a situation fraught with the most serious challenges to criminal trial by impartial jury. This Court has increasingly recognized that news media now have the very real power to prejudice a criminal defendant's right to a fair trial. *Marshall v. United States,* 360 U. S. 310 (1959); *Irvin v. Dowd,* 366 U. S. 717 (1961); *Rideau v. Louisiana,* 373 U. S. 723 (1963).

It was against this background, as well as from a due regard for the dictates of the First Amendment, that petitioner entered the silence order of 5 October 1973. Without in any way desiring or attempting to restrict the media's freedom to report all the events which unfolded at Schiavo's perjury trial, petitioner nonetheless had a fundamental obligation, shared by every District Judge in the nation, to insure that a criminal defendant before him receives what the Sixth Amendment guarantees, a fair trial by an impartial jury. By 1966 this Court had spoken clearly about that obligation to protect the criminal defendant from the prejudicial effect of a pervasive press", assuring that "the balance is never weighed against the accused." *Sheppard v. Maxwell,* 384 U. S. 333, 362 (1966).

Unlike the real and present danger which publication of the other charges against Schiavo posed to his right to an impartial jury, neither the plurality and concurring opinions, nor respondent publisher and respondent Stranahan have yet suggested in any realistic terms just how their First Amendment rights were in fact "chilled". Nor do we yet know just how the exercise of those rights would have actually been hobbled had they refrained (as some media did) from publishing such prejudicial material for the very brief interlude petitioner requested. Unlike prior restraints against the media's criticism of government, for example, there is simply no discernible vindication of the First Amendment to be found in respondents' conduct. In

fact, *The Inquirer* republished previously published facts that this accused, on trial for perjury before a jury, was elsewhere accused of murder and conspiracy to murder.

If it be argued that such republication serves some abstract concept of the public's right to information (even previously published information), it is not the law that all other constitutional safeguards—especially those of the Sixth Amendment—must be compromised or destroyed to serve such an abstraction. As Mr. Justice Jackson has said, "Newspapers, in the enjoyment of their constitutional rights may not deprive accused persons of their right to fair trial." *Shepherd v. Florida,* 341 U. S. 50, 53 (1951). Despite the invocation of "freedom of the press" as a universal solvent for constitutional problems such as the one at bar, the law does impose limitations on that freedom. *Branzburg v. Hayes,* 408 U. S. 665, 683-685 (1972). This Court has announced in *Estes v. Texas,* 381 U. S. 532, 540-541 (1965):

> "We have always held that the atmosphere essential to the preservation of a fair trial—the most fundamental of all freedoms—must be maintained at all costs."

See also *United States v. Tijerina,* 412 F. 2d 661 (C. A. 10, 1969), cert. denied 396 U. S. 867 (1969).

As it stands now, in the name of procedural reform the plurality opinion below has, without authority, actually created new obstacles in the path of District Judges who strive to maintain that most fundamental of freedoms. The facts at bar point this up very clearly. While rejecting the plurality's attempted enactment of procedural rules by Court of Appeals fiat, the concurring opinion works the same result in the name of the First Amendment (pp. 14, 24, 25).

Both this record and the dissent below accurately demonstrate that petitioner's action was "an affirmative effort to vindicate the Sixth Amendment right of a defendant being tried in a criminal case before him." (p. 28). The demonstrable reality is also that the meaning of the silence order was perfectly clear and specific. Respondents fully understood the reason which motivated it. Such realities deserve the kind of consideration they failed to receive below. See *Government of Virgin Islands v. Brodhurst*, 285 F. Supp. 831 (D. C. V. I., 1968).

And last, but hardly least, as the dissent notes, "What is here is not prior restraint . . . but a ban on the repetition of previously published information for *'one more day'*, until the trial concluded." (p. 44). Put in that accurate context, there is every reason to conclude that in a scale of competing First and Sixth Amendment values, those of the Sixth Amendment clearly deserved the highest consideration. To conclude otherwise, as the opinion below does, is to allow the abstraction of a free press rather than the facts at bar to destroy the actual integrity of trial by jury, and to do so without the accountability which the law would demand of any other party who caused such a result.

What is actually involved here is a problem posed by great numbers of criminal cases throughout the federal judiciary. The fair and effective administration of the trials of such cases is directly tied to the District Judge's power to comply with the dictates of *Sheppard v. Maxwell, supra* by prohibiting conduct which prejudices juries. As it stands, the decision below has, without legal justification and for all practical purposes, denied trial judges an essential element of that power. Such a significant decision on so important a question of federal law deserves review in this Court.

CONCLUSION.

For these reasons, a writ of certiorari should issue to review the judgment on rehearing, order and *en banc* opinion of the Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.

Respectfully submitted,

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UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE THIRD CIRCUIT

No. 73-1855

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

FREDERICK SCHIAVO,

Philadelphia Newspapers, Inc.,
and Susan Q. Stranahan,
Appellants

(D. C. Criminal No. 73-302)

APPEAL FROM THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

No. 73-1856

PHILADELPHIA NEWSPAPERS, INC.
and SUSAN Q. STRANAHAN,
Petitioners

v.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
and FREDERICK SCHIAVO,
Respondents

and

THE HONORABLE J. WILLIAM DITTER, JR.,
Nominal Respondent

ON PETITION FOR WRIT OF MANDAMUS OR
WRIT OF PROHIBITION

Argued December 19, 1973
Before VAN DUSEN, ALDISERT and ROSENN, *Circuit Judges*

Reargued May 15, 1974
Before SEITZ, *Chief Judge*, and VAN DUSEN, ALDISERT, ADAMS, GIBBONS, ROSENN, HUNTER, WEIS and GARTH, *Circuit Judges*

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OPINION OF THE COURT
AS AMENDED
(Filed August 8, 1974)
(AMENDED AUG. 22, 23 and OCT. 23, 19)

VAN DUSEN, *Circuit Judge.*

Philadelphia Newspapers, Inc. (hereinafter the "Philadelphia Inquirer") and Susan Q. Stranahan, appellants in

No. 73-1855 and petitioners in No. 73-1856, seek reversal of a written and docketed district court order refusing to vacate an oral order, announced from the bench, enjoining them and other news media representatives from publishing, during the perjury trial of Frederick Schiavo, information concerning murder and conspiracy indictments pending against Schiavo in a related matter.[1]

Schiavo's perjury trial arose out of the death of Martin Alan Hess, a Government informer scheduled to testify in narcotics and counterfeit cases, who was killed in August 1972 when a bomb which had been placed in his car exploded. Schiavo's perjury indictment charged that he had lied to a federal grand jury which was investigating Hess' death. In addition to being indicted for perjury, Schiavo was indicted by a federal grand jury in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania on charges of conspiracy in connection with the alleged murder of the informer and by the State of New Jersey on charges of first degree murder.

Schiavo's perjury trial commenced on Wednesday, October 3, 1973. In an article appearing on Thursday, October 4, under the by-line of appellant Stranahan, the Philadelphia Inquirer reported the events of the first day of trial. The article also indicated that the defendant was "one of five men charged with conspiring to kill a government informer last August." On Thursday afternoon, fearing that the jury in Schiavo's trial might read the article and learn of the other indictments, the district judge summoned members of the press, including appellant Stranahan, to sidebar and stated that, while he could not tell the press what to publish, he hoped that they would appreciate the problems involved in mentioning the other

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1. In their petition for a writ of mandamus and/or prohibition in No. 73-1856, petitioners advance the same arguments and grounds for relief as in their appeal in No. 73-1855. Because our disposition of the appeal in No. 73-1855 renders the petition for a writ of mandamus and/or prohibition moot, such petition will be denied at No. 73-1856. *Cf. State ex rel. Miami Herald v. Rose*, 271 So.2d 483 (Fla. Ct. App. 1972).

two indictments.[2] On Friday, October 5, again under the by-line of appellant Stranahan, the Philadelphia Inquirer published an account of Thursday's proceedings and, in apparent disregard of the district court's request, referred to the existence of the two other indictments. The article stated that "Schiavo also is charged by the Federal government with conspiring to kill Hess and with first-degree murder in New Jersey." On Friday afternoon, at approximately 2:00 P.M., the district judge called the news media representatives covering the trial before him, stated that "they could print that which went on in the court room," but orally ordered them not to mention the above-mentioned two other indictments for different offenses in any further stories, and specifically stated that appellant Stranahan and the editors of the Philadelphia Inquirer would face contempt charges if they violated this order.[3] This order

2. See N.T. 2-17 to 2-18. The record indicates that the district judge stated the following to the press reporters:

"Lady and gentlemen, the defendant in this case is charged with perjury. There is an article in this morning's Inquirer which points out that he was also charged with another crime.

"I would ask you, please, that if you feel that you must write about this case, write about this case and not about other cases. It makes it most difficult to carry on a criminal trial if this sort of thing happens, and I would ask each of you, please, to try to be aware of the problem with the Court and criminal defendants.

"I know I can't tell you what to write, but I would hope that you would be aware of the problems that you create, at least.

"All right, thank you very much."

Defense counsel (Mr. Madnick) had requested the court Thursday morning to tell the press "not to make reference to the fact . . . that Mr. Schiavo has also been indicted in another matter" (N.T. 2-17). A similar request was made on Friday morning (N.T. 3-17ff.).

3. See N.T. 3-61 to 3-62. The record indicates that the district judge stated the following (Doc. 20 in E.D. Pa. Crim. #73-302):

"(At side bar the following ensued with the following parties present:

"Richard Meltzer, Esquire; Irving Madnick, Esquire; Edward Polinski, Deputy Clerk; Mr. Rosenthal, U.P.I.; Mr. Enoch, Daily News; Miss Stranahan, Inquirer; Mr. Messaros, Bulletin and Mr. Guadiosi, U.P.I.)

"(Discussion was had off the record.)

"THE COURT: While we were off the record I had the members of the press to come into the courtroom and they have all come in, at least so far as I know, and that would be Miss Stranahan, and I don't know your name.

"MR. ROSENTHAL: Mr. Rosenthal.

"THE COURT: Which paper?

was not transcribed that week; also, it was neither set forth in writing by the district court nor entered on the district court docket until after the appeal was docketed in this court. The first evidence on the district court docket of the reduction of the district court order to writing is a docket entry on October 10, 1973.[4]

At approximately 4:00 P.M. the same afternoon (October 5), counsel for appellants appeared before the district court and presented argument in support of a written motion that the above oral order be vacated. After hearing argument,[5] the district court denied the motion to vacate

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3. (Cont'd.)

"MR. ROSENTHAL: The Associated Press.

"MR. ENOCH: Danny Enoch, Associated Press, Judge.

"MR. GUADIOSI: John Guadiosi, United Press International.

"THE COURT: Miss Stranahan, of the Inquirer and Mr. Henry Messaros from the Bulletin. I told them all that while they could print that which went on in the courtroom so far as this trial is concerned they were not to write nor were their papers to print matters that were not said here in the courtroom.

"MR. MADNICK: Specifically, I think Your Honor should—

"THE COURT: And specifically I told Miss Stranahan that she had in a story byline that had been pointed out that this defendant had been indicted in New Jersey and had been indicted for other offenses in this jurisdiction. I said that there was to be no repetition of that story or those facts and that if it was repeated I would consider it a matter of contempt of court and I would consider holding her liable for contempt and holding her editors liable for contempt.

"MR. ENOCH: Would you agree that without the known connection between Mr. Schiavo and the Hess murder this trial seems to be very little without the—

"THE COURT: I didn't say anything about your not printing that which is said here in the courtroom. I'm talking about information that has not come out in the course of the trial and there have been many references to Martin Alan Hess in the course of this trial.

"MR. ENOCH: How about information we can find in our libraries at the different papers?

"THE COURT: If it hasn't come out here in this courtroom I would consider that contempt.

"Anything you want me to add, Mr. Madnick?

"MR. MADNICK: No, sir.

"(Side bar concluded.)"

4. It is noted that this transcript (Document 12, filed October 10) contains the oral statement in open court of the district judge at 2 P.M., setting forth his oral order, which was also transcribed again in the transcript filed November 6. See note 5. (Document 20, filed 11/6/73 in E.D. Pa., Crim. No. 73-302).

5. See N.T. 3-13 of Document 12 in E.D. Pa. Criminal No. 73-302.

and subsequently denied a motion for a stay of the order pending appeal. This order refusing to vacate the prior oral order was set forth in writing and entered on the district court docket. The appellants immediately filed a notice of appeal late Friday afternoon, October 5, from the 4 P.M. order refusing to vacate the oral order announced about 2 P.M.

In their appeal, the appellants challenge the order of the district court on both constitutional and procedural grounds. For reasons which appear below, we reverse the district court order on procedural grounds.

I.

This appeal confronts this court with two preliminary issues.

First, appellee[6] contends that there is no appealable order in the instant case. Specifically, the appellee contends that the district court's oral silence order is not an injunction within the meaning of 28 U.S.C. § 1292(a)(1) but merely an incidental court order which is non-appealable, notwithstanding the fact that it purports to enjoin publication by the newspapers of certain information. We find it unnecessary to resolve this issue as we have concluded that the written order of October 5, 1973, is an appealable final order under 28 U.S.C. § 1291, since it falls within the "collateral order" doctrine established by the Supreme Court in *Cohen v. Beneficial Industrial Loan Corp.*, 337 U.S. 541 (1949). In *Cohen*, the Supreme Court defined collateral orders as

> "that small class which finally determine claims of right separable from, and collateral to, rights asserted in the action, too important to be denied review and too independent of the cause itself to require that appellate consideration be deferred until the whole case is ad-

6. Appellee herein designates the United States. Schiavo filed no brief and took no part in this appeal.

judicated. . . . We hold this order appealable because it is a final disposition of a claimed right which is not an ingredient of the cause of action and does not require consideration with it."
337 U.S. at 546-47.

The order in the instant case constituted a final decision since it determined a matter independent of the issues to be resolved in the criminal proceeding itself, bound persons who were non-parties in the underlying criminal proceeding and had a substantial, continuing effect on important rights.[7]

Secondly, the appellee contends that the instant appeal should be dismissed as moot since Schiavo's criminal trial has been completed and there no longer exists any restraint upon the appellants. We reject this contention and hold that this case is reviewable as a dispute "capable of repetition, yet evading review." *Southern Pacific Terminal Co. v. ICC*, 219 U.S. 498, 515 (1911); see also *DeFunis v. Odegaard*, 42 U.S.L.W. 4578, 4579 (U.S., Apr. 23, 1974); *Roe v. Wade*, 410 U.S. 113, 125 (1973). This conclusion is not affected by the possibility that appellants may be cited for contempt of the silence order. The publication of proscribed matters in violation of the order would constitute a criminal contempt, and the merits of such an order could not ordinarily be challenged on appeal from a citation for criminal contempt. See *United States v. United Mine Workers*, 330 U.S. 258, 289-95 (1947); *Walker v. Birmingham*, 388 U.S. 307, 314-20 (1967).[8] If this case were deemed

7. See Rendleman, *Free Press—Fair Trial; Review of Silence Orders*, 52 N.C. Law Rev. 127, 128-30 (1973).

8. We note that while the merits of the allegedly violated order would ordinarily not be reviewable on appeal of a criminal contempt, the breadth and vagueness of the order would be open to question. *See Walker v. Birmingham*, 388 U.S. 307, 317 (1967). Appellants' challenge to the order here, however, is not limited to its asserted ambiguity. Also, on this record, which does not contain any evidence of the alleged contempt occurring after October 5, it is not appropriate to consider whether the rule of these cases should be applied in this situation, where the representatives of the press have filed a motion to vacate the oral silence order and an immediate appeal from the denial of such motion. By contrast, the Supreme Court pointed out in *Walker* that no effort was made to modify or dissolve the enjoining order. *Id.* at 318.

moot, it is unlikely that members of the press who are subject to a silence order would ever be able to obtain appellate review, since the underlying criminal proceeding would almost always terminate before the appellate court hears the case.

II.

Appellants advance numerous arguments in support of their contention that the district court erred in refusing to vacate the silence order. Before reaching those arguments, however, we must address one problem not noted by appellants.

We assume for purposes of this appeal that the district court had power to enter the silence order, even though that order directly bound non-parties and governed their actions outside the presence of the court. The Sixth Amendment imposes a duty on the district courts no less than on prosecutors to take reasonable measures to ensure defendants fair trials, free of prejudice and disruption. See *Sheppard v. Maxwell*, 384 U.S. 333, 361-63 (1966). Certainly, a federal trial judge may, to that end, restrict the actions of non-parties in his presence. See *United States ex rel. Robson v. Malone*, 412 F.2d 848 (7th Cir. 1969); *United States v. Venuto*, 182 F.2d 519 (3d Cir. 1950). In fulfilling their charge, the district courts also are authorized to restrict conduct outside the courtroom of parties, lawyers, jurors, witnesses, court officials and others connected with the trial process. *Sheppard v. Maxwell*, *supra* at 361-62. This nucleus of clear judicial power to assure defendants fair trials underlies our assumption that the court below possessed the power to prohibit non-parties from taking actions, out of court, that would imperil efforts to provide Schiavo a fair trial.[9] This assumption does not

9. The plurality opinion in *Branzburg v. Hayes*, 408 U.S. 665 (1972), also assumes that courts possess this power and, further, intimates a resolution of the constitutional question we avoid here: what action may the district court take to carry out its duty under the Sixth Amendment without violating First Amendment limitations on its actions? The plurality in *Branzburg* declared:

pre-judge the possible constitutional limits on the exercise of such a power.[10]

Appellants' most vigorously pressed contention is that the district court's refusal to vacate the silence order was error because entry of the silence order against newspapers and reporters contravened the First Amendment guarantee of freedom of the press from governmental restraint. Appellants also argue that the district court's initial order should have been vacated because it was entered without according them appropriate procedural safeguards.

We have concluded that the district court's written order of October 5, refusing to vacate the previous oral order, should be reversed since the previous oral order was procedurally deficient in various important respects. Our conclusion that this case should be reversed on procedural grounds makes resolution of the constitutional issue unnecessary. See *Alma Motor Co. v. Timken Co.*, 329 U.S. 129, 136-37 (1947). In *Alma Motor Co., supra,* the Supreme Court stated:

> "If two questions are raised, one of non-constitutional and the other of constitutional nature, and a decision of the non-constitutional question would make unnecessary a decision of the constitutional question, the former will be decided. This same rule should guide the lower courts as well as this one. We believe that the structure of the problems before the Circuit Court

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9. (Cont'd.)

"Newsmen . . . may be prohibited from attending or publishing information about trials if such restrictions are necessary to assure a defendant a fair trial before an impartial tribunal."

Id. at 684-85. We do not attempt to foresee whether the Court will adhere to this dictum in the future.

10. In view of the jurisdiction granted to the district courts over "all offenses against the laws of the United States" in 18 U.S.C. § 3231 and the requirements of the Sixth Amendment, it is unnecessary to consider whether the terms of 28 U.S.C. § 1651(a) authorize the district court in a criminal case to issue such an essentially injunctive order affecting persons who are not parties in aid of its criminal jurisdiction. *Cf. United States v. Morgan*, 346 U.S. 502, 506-13 (1954); 9 Moore's Federal Practice (2d ed.) § 110.29; *United States v. Steese*, 144 F.2d 439, 442, 445-47 (3d Cir. 1944); *United States v. Lynch*, 132 F.2d 111, 113 (3d Cir. 1943).

of Appeals required the application of the rule to this case."[11]

This case came before us in an unusual procedural posture. The oral silence order which was entered at 2 P.M. on October 5, 1973, and which is being challenged on this appeal was never reduced by the district judge to written form, stating in specific terms exactly what conduct on the part of the press was being restrained and for what reasons such conduct was being restrained, nor was it entered on the district court docket in the criminal proceeding against Schiavo. In addition, no part of the official transcript relating to the oral order was filed until October 10, 1973,[12] and the transcript of the actual silence order itself was not completed and filed until November 6. Therefore, as of the time that the notice of appeal was filed in this court on Friday, October 5, there was no written version of the silence order, either in the form of a written order on a separate document or in the form of a transcript of the proceedings, which this court could consider in resolving the appeal. The sole written record which was either presented to or available for this court's consideration was the written order refusing to vacate the prior oral order. This written order, consisting of one sentence, gave no indication of the substance of the previous oral order or of the reasons for its issuance.

In addition to the above, the silence order was not simply an interlocutory order binding persons already parties to the criminal proceeding and already properly before the court. Rather, the silence order was directed at

11. See also *Ashwander v. Valley Authority*, 297 U.S. 288, 345-48 (1936) (concurring opinion of Brandeis, J.); *United States v. United States District Court*, 407 U.S. 297, 340 (1972) (concurring opinion of White, J.); *Zschering v. Miller*, 389 U.S. 429, 444-45 (1968) (concurring opinion of Harlan, J.). In his concurring opinion in *Ashwander*, Justice Brandeis stated that "the Court will not pass upon a constitutional question although properly presented by the record, if there is also present some other ground upon which the case may be disposed of." 297 U.S. at 347. See also *Rescue Army v. Municipal Court*, 331 U.S. 549, 568-69 (1947).

12. See note 4, *supra*.

non-parties, who were brought before the court solely because of the court's desire to prevent outside interference with the trial. As such, the silence order was a final decision in a collateral matter against non-parties, with a continuing binding effect against such persons which would last indefinitely. Because of the application to revoke the oral order, it could be expected that the persons bound by that order would seek immediate appellate review since they faced the threat of criminal contempt charges if they disobeyed such order.

In light of the above factors, we have concluded, pursuant to our supervisory powers,[13] that the oral silence order was procedurally deficient. Where a district court enters such an order which is immediately appealable as a final decision in a collateral matter, and where such order binds non-parties for a continuing period of time, the order should be reduced to written form, stating specifically the terms of the order and the reasons therefor, and entered on the district court docket.[14] Accordingly, we hold that the written order of October 5, 1973, must be reversed. The district court should have vacated the oral order, held a prompt hearing after notice to the involved members of the press and parties, and, if a silence order was deemed to be justified, reduced such order to writing with specific terms and reasons and had it entered on the district court docket.[15]

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13. *McNabb v. United States*, 318 U.S. 332, 341 (1942); *Bertone v. United States*, 375 U.S. 52, 54 (1963); *Government of the Virgin Islands v. Boddie*, 427 F.2d 532, 534 (3d Cir. 1970); *cf. LaBuy v. Howes Leather Co.*, 352 U.S. 249, 259-60 (1957); *United States v. Barber*, 442 F.2d 517, 528 (3d Cir. 1971); *United States v. Fioravanti*, 412 F.2d 407, 420 (3d Cir. 1969).

14. *Cf. Levin v. Wear-Ever Aluminum, Inc.*, 427 F.2d 847, 848-49 (3d Cir. 1970). Although the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure (see note 16 below) are inapplicable to the criminal proceeding being tried on October 5, 1973, we note that Rule 55 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure provides that "each order or judgment of the court" shall be entered in the criminal docket. As stated in note 4 above, the transcript of the oral order was not filed until November 6, 1973, and there was no notation on the docket of the entry of an order even on that date.

15. Notice of such a hearing, with a warning to the press representatives to secure counsel, to be held at the termination of the jury trial on the afternoon of October 5 could have been given at or prior to 2 P.M., when the silence order was orally stated, or at least when the motion to vacate such

The above procedural requirements, which we impose under our supervisory power, are particularly necessary in a case such as the instant case, where the district court order affects the First Amendment rights of the press. First, the district court's failure to reduce the order to writing subjected the First Amendment rights of the press to an impermissible "chilling effect." The appellants could act only at their own risk since they were subject to the threat of criminal contempt for failure to comply with the order, and such risk was necessarily increased by the fact that the appellants had no written version of the order detailing precisely what conduct was prohibited. Second, the fact that the order involved the balancing of fundamental constitutional rights made it even more imperative that this court, in reviewing the merits of the order, have before it a written order providing specifically what conduct was restrained and for what reasons.

Finally, we note that the procedural requirements which we impose under our supervisory powers for this type of proceeding [16] are similar to those imposed by the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. *Cf.* F.R. Civ. P. 54, 58, 65(d), and 79(a).[17]

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15. (Cont'd.)

oral order was presented at 4 P.M. on that day. In view of the conflicting policies of the First and Sixth Amendments (see pages 8-9 above) and repeated holdings that restraints of the press may only be granted in unusual circumstances, such hearings are most important so that the district court can weigh all the circumstances of the particular case in light of the applicable constitutional policies. The district court should solicit the comments of all counsel on the proposed wording of any proposed silence order.

16. A silence order of this type has been described as ". . . a civil order in a criminal case . . . ." *Rendleman, supra* at 131.

17. F.R. Civ. P. 54 provides that a "'judgment' as used in these rules includes a decree and any order from which an appeal lies." F.R. Civ. P. 58 provides that "every judgment shall be set forth on a separate document" and that "a judgment is effective only when so set forth and when entered as provided in Rule 79(a)." F.R. Civ. P. 79(a) prescribes the procedure for entry of judgment on the district court docket. That these procedural requirements must be strictly complied with was recently reaffirmed by the Supreme Court in *United States v. Indrelunas*, 411 U.S. 216, 220-21 (1973). It has also been the consistent policy of this court that a judgment, to be effective, must both be on a separate document as required by F.R. Civ. P. 58 and be docketed as provided in F.R. Civ. P. 79(a). See *Levin v. Wear-Ever Aluminum, Inc.*, 427 F.2d 847, 848-49 (3d Cir. 1970); *Jenkins v. United States*, 325 F.2d 942, 944 n.6 (3d Cir. 1963). Even prior to the 1963 amendment of

For the foregoing reasons, the district court written order of October 5, 1973, will be reversed and the case remanded for such action as may be necessary, consistent with this opinion.

ADAMS, *Circuit Judge*, concurring:

The procedural and constitutional issues raised by the district court's refusal to vacate its oral order restraining the publication in newspapers of certain background material concerning Schiavo do not readily lend themselves to precise formulation. Moreover, even though a satisfactory formulation may appear to be achieved, reasoned explanations for alternative definitions of a number of the issues exist. It is not surprising, therefore, that while I concur with the plurality's conclusions on several points—for example, those concerning appealability [1]—its opinion does not reflect my own perceptions of the problems presented by this appeal in several major respects.[1a]

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17. (Cont'd.)
Rule 58, requiring judgments "on a separate document," failure to have a written indication in the record on the docket of a civil judgment made it ineffective. See *Jenkins, supra* at 944-45.

In addition to the above requirements, F.R. Civ. P. 65(d) states that "every order granting an injunction and every restraining order shall set forth the reasons for its issuance; shall be specific in its terms; [and] shall describe in reasonable detail the act or acts sought to be restrained." Although we do not hold in this case that a silence order is an injunction within the meaning of F.R. Civ. P. 65(d), nevertheless Rule 65(d) reflects the clear policy that parties bound by restraining orders should be informed exactly what conduct is sought to be restrained.

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1. *Cf.* United States v. Nixon, 42 U.S.L.W. 5237, 5239-40 (U.S. July 24, 1974).

1a. Possible sources of district court power to issue orders affecting the conduct of non-parties, such as news reporters or their publishers, so as to assure fair and orderly progress of criminal trials received only brief attention at oral argument and in the Government's briefs. Further, my own research does not conclusively establish that the All-Writs statute, 28 U.S.C. § 1651, bestows such authority on the district courts. Because this issue has been but slightly exposed on this appeal, I am not prepared to address it even though, in my view, the case then must be decided on grounds that might be regarded, at least, as quasi-constitutional.

Thus, although agreeing that the appeal in this case is not moot, I attach somewhat greater significance than does the plurality to the representation made to this Court by the United States Attorney that the district court intends to conduct proceedings with the view to holding any person, subject to the order, who violated it, in contempt.[2] This representation renders the mootness question substantially more analytically difficult than the brevity of the plurality's discussion might suggest. Specifically, it would appear necessary to consider the effect of a determination that this appeal is not moot on an attempt by an alleged contemnor to attack the merits of the district court's order should a contempt proceeding take place.

Also, the plurality's characterization of the grounds for the reversal of the district court's order as "procedural" seems too facile. If the order is to fall because of the absence of procedural safeguards prior to its issuance, such safeguards are dictated in this case by the First Amendment values implicated. I would not invoke our supervisory powers, assuming such powers may be invoked in the context of the dispute presented here, to require the district courts to follow certain procedures when case law so clearly compels such a result in any event.

Further, the order in this case, in my judgment, may be questioned on the settled constitutional ground that it fails to achieve the precision that any restriction on speech or press must possess in order to comport with the First Amendment.

I.

The district court's oral order sought to limit publication of potentially prejudicial material during the pendency of Schiavo's trial. By the time this Court was

2. Although it is generally preferable to confine appellate adjudication to the record, here the Court has been advised, without contradiction, that the district court has already issued a notice summoning the parties to a hearing to determine whether there has been a contempt.

prepared to deal with the appeal from the order, the trial had concluded. Thus, since there no longer existed any reason to limit the publication of the matters arguably covered by the oral order, the Government asserts that the appeal is now moot.

The plurality "reject[s] this contention and hold[s] that this case is reviewable as a dispute 'capable of repetition, yet evading review.'"[3] With this decision, I agree. However, although the plurality suggests that an alleged contemnor may be able to secure review of the merits of a silence order at a contempt proceeding, the question is far from settled and in rejecting the appellee's mootness contention, it may be suggested that we implicitly disparage the possibility of any review of the merits of silence orders at the contempt stage.[4]

To discount the possibility of challenging an order in a contempt proceeding appears to be consistent with the Supreme Court's decisions in United States v. United Mine Workers[5] and Walker v. Birmingham.[6] "Violations of an order are punishable as criminal contempt even though the order is set aside on appeal."[7] Nonetheless, I, apparently like the plurality, am not confident that a silence order like the one here is completely immune from collateral attack in a contempt proceeding. Clearly, the question whether collateral attack on the merits of a silence order is available cannot be definitively resolved in this case, for we are not reviewing an attempt to attack an order collaterally in a contempt proceeding. But it appears appropriate to adumbrate considerations that may remove silence orders, at least in some instances, from

3. Majority Opinion at 7.

4. The plurality does state that "[i]f this case were deemed moot, it is unlikely that members of the press who are subject to a silence order would ever be able to obtain appellate review, since the underlying criminal proceeding would almost always terminate before the appellate court hears the case." Plurality Opinion at 8.

5. 330 U.S. 238 (1947).

6. 388 U.S. 307 (1967).

7. 330 U.S. at 294.

what may seem to some to be the precedental ambit of *United Mine Workers* and *Walker*.

In *Walker*, the Supreme Court stated that "[the] case would arise in quite a different constitutional posture if the petitioners, before disobeying the injunction, had challenged it in the Alabama courts, and had been met with delay or frustration of their constitutional claims."[8] It has been suggested, not unreasonably, that the Supreme Court thus "qualified the application of the collateral bar rule by requiring that adequate and effective remedies for review be present before the rule can be properly invoked."[9] Adopting such a precept, it can be argued that "adequate and effective" appellate remedies are frequently lacking when silence orders are issued during the course of a criminal case.[10]

The facts of this case offer an illustrative situation. The district court issued its oral order at 2:00 P.M. on Friday afternoon and denied the motion to vacate about two hours later. Representatives of the media immediately filed notice of appeal. Both in the district court and here they moved for a stay. The district court denied the request and this Court did not grant a stay until the following Wednesday, five days later. On that same day, the jury returned its verdict. Hence, by the time the strictures of the district court's order were lifted the information covered by the order had, for all practical purposes, lost its timeliness. This, of course, is particularly unfortunate in light of the subsequent determination, on this appeal, that the order was, in fact, invalid.

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8. 388 U.S. at 318.

9. Rendleman, Free Press—Fair Trial: Review of Silence Orders, 52 N.C. L. Rev. 127, 149.

10. For example, counsel for two Louisiana papers were forced to fly hurriedly to Washington to request the Supreme Court to grant a temporary restraining order enjoining a state judge's wide-ranging "gag order" pending the disposition of the newspapers' appeal. N.Y. Times, July 15, 1974 at 9. Absent the Supreme Court's grant of the newspapers' extraordinary request, the gag order will probably remain in effect until the trial ends because, in all likelihood, appellate review will not be available until after the trial's completion.

In a sense, therefore, these representatives of the media were deprived of "adequate and effective" review. Despite vigorous pursuit of their appeal and prompt action by this Court, they were unable to press their objections to the order until the practical effect of success on appeal, at least in this case, had become insubstantial. To put litigants in appellants' position to the choice of obeying an order and awaiting appellate action while their alleged civil rights continue to be infringed, or of disobeying the order and then facing certain contempt convictions, makes any subsequent victory on appeal Pyrrhic indeed. Assuming proper and good faith pursuit of appellate remedies, the *Walker* dicta may well provide an avenue of escape from this dilemma by permitting collateral attack of the order in a contempt proceeding. The accused contemnor, of course, would continue to assume the risk that the order is valid and, hence, his disobedience inexcusable.

However, in United States v. Dickinson,[11] an appeal from a judgment of contempt in circumstances similar to those here, the Fifth Circuit considered this rationale for justifying a reversal of a contempt conviction and concluded it was outweighed by competing considerations. Those considerations were "the need to follow an orderly institutional process to resolve disputes, and . . . the need to preserve respect for courts and judicial orders."[12] Although the Fifth Circuit's opinion is comprehensive, it is certainly possible for another court to reach an opposing, yet an equally well-reasoned conclusion. Indeed, some state courts have permitted collateral attacks on silence orders in subsequent contempt proceedings and reversed convictions because of the invalidity of the orders.[13]

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11. 465 F.2d 496 (5th Cir. 1972).

12. Rendleman, Free Press—Fair Trial: Review of Silence Orders, 52 N.C. L. Rev. 127, 158 (1973).

13. See Younger v. Smith, 30 Cal. App.3d 138, 106 Cal. Rptr. 225 (1973); Wood v. Goodson, 485 S.W.2d 213 (Ark. 1972); State v. Sperry, 79 Wash.2d 69, 483 P.2d 608, *cert. denied sub nom.* McCrea v. Sperry, 404 U.S. 939 (1971). The state courts suggested in these cases that each of the orders was subject to collateral attack, for example, because it was "void . . . as distinguished from one that is merely erroneous," 483 P.2d at 611, or because

On the other hand, if the present appeal should be held to be moot, the district court would be hard pressed to deny any litigant accused of contempt for violating the order the opportunity to challenge it collaterally. To prohibit such an attack on the merits would mean that the district court's order would completely elude such challenge. This situation, in and of itself, could well raise due process objections.

We need not, however, permit this appeal only by intimating that no challenge may be mounted to the underlying order in a contempt proceeding. Instead, it would seem appropriate to acknowledge that though, in functional terms, there are compelling reasons supporting the apparently conflicting positions taken in *Dickinson* and by some state courts, this Circuit has not yet been presented with a collateral attack on a silence order in a contempt proceeding. To establish the rule in this Circuit, we must await such event. Until then, appeals like the present one should not be regarded as moot on the ground that the litigant may not attack the merits of the order in a contempt proceeding because such is not, at this time, the law of this Circuit. Instead, the possibility that this Circuit may follow the *Dickinson* precedent should suffice to prevent viewing this appeal as moot. Should this court ultimately hold collateral attack to be available, appeals similar to this one, from the date of such decision, may well be regarded as moot.[14]

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13. (Cont'd.)

the defect was "jurisdictional." Yet it is difficult to distinguish the orders at issue in those cases from that involved in *Dickinson* on the basis of their relative patent invalidity, the standard apparently used by the state courts to determine whether the order was void or that its issuance amounted to a jurisdictional defect.

14. If collateral attack of silence orders in some situations is eventually permitted, a litigant who disobeys an order may be required to await a contempt proceeding rather than appealing prior to the institution of such proceeding. Any attempt to challenge a silence order in a context like that presented by this case would then likely be regarded as not ripe until a contempt proceeding takes place.

II.

Upon the basis of the Court's purported supervisory power, the plurality proceeds to erect some procedural requirements that should be met before such an order is issued. This approach is somewhat disquieting. Appellate courts, it appears, exercise their supervisory power over lower courts to impose procedural requirements that seem wise, but that are not compelled by the Constitution or statute.[15] However, a fair reading of the pertinent case law suggests that First Amendment considerations do, in fact, dictate procedural requirements like those set forth by the majority. Thus, I would not rely in this case on the rubric of "supervising powers."

Rather, I would note that, assuming arguendo there may be a prior restraint,[16] no order should issue unless, at

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15. *See, e.g.*, McNabb v. United States, 318 U.S. 322 (1942). Since, in my view, certain procedural requirements are compelled by First Amendment considerations, I need not, as the dissent does, reach the issue whether this Court has the power to impose similar procedural requirements pursuant to its supervisory powers.

16. *See* Near v. Minnesota, 283 U.S. 697 (1931). "Speaking very generally, the doctrine [of prior restraint] holds that governmental restrictions cannot be imposed upon speech or other kind of expression in advance of publication." Emerson, The System of Freedom of Expression, 503-04 (1970).

In Pell v. Procunier, 42 U.S.L.W. 4998 (June 24, 1974), the Supreme Court, in sustaining a state prison regulation that limited a newsman's ability to secure personal interviews with prisoners of his choice, suggested that the availability of alternative avenues of access meant that the state did not have to meet the heavy burden required to justify prior restraints. In the case at hand, the publication of certain material has been completely foreclosed for a period of time. Thus, even if the order of the district court had issued after the observance of the appropriate procedural safeguards, the Government would have to meet this heavy burden in order to secure affirmance of the order.

The dissent takes the position that once material is published any prohibition on future publication no longer constitutes a prior restraint. Dissenting Opinion at 2 n.1. Apart from noting that republication constitutes a repetition, the dissent offers no reasons supporting such a distinction between previously published and unpublished materials for the purposes of prior restraint analysis. Nor does it refer to any case law suggesting such a distinction. The dissent later in its opinion, lists several factors that, in its judgment, buttress the district court's order in this case. First, the material related to historical as opposed to current facts. Second, the material concerned past indictments which are not determinations of guilt. Third, "the information had already been disseminated. . . ." Fourth, it was no longer "hot news." Lastly, the trial was to last only one day. Dissenting Opinion at 44.

The dissent would appear inaccurate in suggesting that the ban on publication would last only one more day. The order was issued on Friday and the trial was to resume after a three-day holiday weekend. Hence, the ban was

the very least, certain procedures, designed to assure that the imposition on freedom of speech or press is not excessive, are dutifully followed. In this case such procedures were not followed and, thus, the district court's order may not stand. I recognize that my approach may appear to differ merely in form from that of the plurality, but, when constitutional issues are implicated, apparent differences of form in one case can, in a later cause, have profound substantive implications.[17]

In this case, the district court sought to restrict a form of expression that is among those accorded the greatest protection by the First Amendment against all types of restraint. To secure a free and aggressive press may well be regarded as the primary objective of the Amendment. Individuals and institutions, in their private capacities, not government officials, should determine what is to be published. Otherwise, the free flow of information and ideas

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16. (Cont'd.)

to remain in effect 4 or 5 days longer. More importantly, however, it is difficult to see how the factors listed by the dissent affect a determination whether a prior restraint exists or whether the order should be sustained. Decisions that particular material is newsworthy, important, or "hot news" seem precisely those that, under our constitutional scheme, are to be left to the press and are not to be made by public officials, judicial or otherwise. The Supreme Court recently reaffirmed this principle in The Miami Herald Publishing Co. v. Tornillo, 42 U.S.L.W. 5098 (U.S. June 25, 1974) in unequivocal terms:

> A newspaper is more than a passive receptacle or conduit for news, comment, and advertising. The choice of material to go into a newspaper, and the decisions made as to limitations on the size of the paper, and content and treatment of public issues and public officials—whether fair or unfair—constitutes the exercise of editorial control and judgment. It has yet to be demonstrated how governmental regulation of this crucial process can be exercised consistent with First Amendment guarantees of a free press as they have evolved to this time. *Id.* at 5103.

17. According to the dissent, discussion of the issues in this case must begin with the Sixth Amendment because it is the "beginning." Apparently it is the dissent's view that the extensive scholarly discussion of the ostensible conflict between First and Sixth Amendment values results from a misapprehension of the "beginning." Since the district court was prompted by Sixth Amendment considerations in issuing the oral order, the contention is that we must "begin" with the Sixth Amendment too. Presumably if the district court, prompted by First Amendment considerations, had refused to issue a silence order, the First Amendment, rather than the Sixth Amendment, would have been the "beginning" and, for that reason, such refusal would be properly affirmed. To allow conflicts between constitutional provisions to be resolved in such a fortuitous manner would appear inconsistent with principled constitutional analysis.

from non-official sources that helps to assure the proper functioning of a democratic republic will be lost.[18] Attempts to suppress material before newspaper publication are rare in our history. Justice Brennan has commented that "[s]o far as I can determine, never before [New York Times Co. v. United States] [19] has the United States sought to enjoin a newspaper from publishing information in its possession." [20]

It is not surprising, therefore, that it is in the obscenity area—an area explicitly exempted from First Amendment protection [21]—that the Supreme Court has had the opportunity to formulate procedures to be followed before material potentially protected by the First Amendment may be suppressed. The material here, unlike arguably obscene matter, is unquestionably within the Amendment's protection. "If the Constitution requires elaborate procedural safeguards in the obscenity area, a fortiori it should require equivalent procedural protection when the speech involved [like that here] . . . implicates more central First Amendment concerns." [22]

In Freedman v. Maryland,[23] the Supreme Court emphasized "the burden of proving that the [motion picture] is unprotected expression must rest with the censor," and that "a judicial determination in an adversary proceeding" is necessary.[24] In Kingsley Books, Inc. v. Brown,[25] the Supreme Court approved a New York statutory procedure

18. *See* The Miami Herald Publishing Co. v. Tornillo, 42 U.S.L.W. 5098 (U.S. June 25, 1974).

19. 403 U.S. 713 (1971).

20. *Id.* at 725 (Brennan, J., concurring).

21. Obscene material is not protected speech under the First Amendment. *See, e.g.*, Roth v. United States, 354 U.S. 476 (1957).

22. Monaghan, First Amendment "Due Process," 83 Harv. L. Rev. 518, 519 (1970).

23. 380 U.S. 51 (1965).

24. *Id.* at 58.

25. 254 U.S. 436 (1957). In *Kingsley Books*, the Court, by a 5-4 majority, approved a statutory scheme that permitted suppression of allegedly *obscene* matter for two days pending a judicial determination whether or not the matter is, in fact, obscene. The area of obscenity is one of the very few where a prior restraint of limited duration has been permitted.

that permitted the permanent prohibition of the distribution of books only after notice and an adversary hearing resulted in a determination that the particular book is obscene.

In a case not involving obscene material, the Supreme Court, in Carroll v. President and Commissioners of Princess Anne,[26] struck down an injunction against the staging of a political rally because—somewhat similar to the circumstances here—it was issued *ex parte*,[27] and without notice or any effort to secure the participation of those subject to the interdiction. The Court expressed the substantial concerns that support the imposition of procedural protection when a judicial decision touches upon First Amendment values:

> Judgment as to whether the facts justify the use of the drastic power of injunction necessarily turns on subtle and controversial considerations and upon a delicate assessment of the particular situation in light of legal standards which are inescapably imprecise. . . .
>
> The same is true of the fashioning of the order. An order issued in the area of First Amendment rights must be couched in the narrowest terms that will accomplish the pinpointed objective permitted by constitutional mandate and the essential needs of the public order. . . . In other words, the order must be tailored as precisely as possible to the exact needs of the case. The participation of both sides is necessary for this purpose.[28]

The attention thus given to the process antecedent to the promulgation of restraints on speech or publication reflects a deep-rooted conviction that such steps, correctly

26. 393 U.S. 175 (1968). *See* Procunier v. Martinez, 42 U.S.L.W. 4607, 4613 (April 29, 1974).

27. At the time the oral order was issued in this case apparently the only representative of The Philadelphia Inquirer present was Ms. Stranahan, a reporter.

28. 393 U.S. at 183-84.

conceived and carefully followed, will increase the likelihood that decisions affecting First Amendment rights will not unconstitutionally impair the exercise of those rights. Different circumstances may well call for different procedures, but any procedure must be directed to the end of achieving a thorough and well-reasoned decision properly deferential to First Amendment interests.

The core of any such process is adequate notice to the parties affected and an adversary hearing. Further, it would seem that any decision to restrain must be consonant with the record as developed at the hearing, and must be based on particularized findings.[29] Whether or not testimony need be taken depends, of course, on the existence and nature of any factual disputes affecting First Amendment values. The trial court should state carefully the reasons for its order and why it deems less drastic alternatives inappropriate. Finally, an order inhibiting the exercise of the First Amendment should be drawn in explicit terms so as to indicate clearly the bounds of its restrictions.[30]

In the context of a silence order sought to be imposed against the press, it would seem that a judge should notify the affected parties of any request for a silence order, extend to them adequate time to prepare for a hearing, and conduct a hearing if the request for a silence order is not frivolous on its face. Any such hearing must explore the possibility of attaining, in the particular case, an acceptable accommodation of First and Sixth Amendment values along the lines suggested by the Supreme Court in decisions such as Sheppard v. Maxwell,[31] and by the several studies made of the problem.[32]

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29. Tinker v. Des Moines School Dist., 393 U.S. 503, 509 (1969).

30. *See, e.g.*, Smith v. Goguen, 42 U.S.L.W. 4393 (U.S. March 25, 1974).

31. 384 U.S. 333 (1966).

32. *See, e.g.*, Report of the Committee on the Operation of the Jury System on the "Free Press—Fair Trial" Issue, 45 F.R.D. 391 (1968) (known as the "Kaufman Committee Report"); Reardon, The Fair Trial-Free Press Standards, 54 A.B.B.J. 343 (1968); Freedom of the Press and Fair Trial:

The party seeking to restrict First Amendment rights should bear the heavy burden of establishing the necessity for the requested silence order.[33] Although a judge must exhibit utmost caution to assure that a criminal trial is free of potentially prejudicial influences, he is required, at the same time, to bear in mind the exalted niche occupied by freedom of the press in our system of constitutional values. He must, therefore, be acutely aware of the burden that need be met—if it can be met at all—before a prior restraint may constitutionally be imposed. Finally, the decision should reveal the facts and reasons supporting it, and the ultimate order should be in written form so as to obviate any ambiguity created by less formal, oral orders.

This case forcefully illustrates that failure to adhere to such procedures may well lead to impermissible infringements upon First Amendment rights. The record reveals that the oral order here was preceded by no hearing whatsoever.[34] Counsel for representatives of the media did not have an opportunity to present argument or call witnesses before the oral order was issued. The hearing on the motion to vacate the oral order occurred within two hours of its issuance. Hence, it would appear that notice to appellants was inadequate and, indeed, the brevity of the hearing on the motion to vacate the oral order suggests its perfunctory character in view of the important questions at stake.

The dissent would place upon the media the burden of assuring that a silence order be issued after careful ad-

32. (Cont'd.)
Final Report with Recommendations by the Special Committee on Radio, Television and the Administration of Justice of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York (Columbia University Press, 1967) (known as the "Medina Report").

33. *See* New York Times Co. v. United States, 403 U.S. 713, 715 (1971) (per curiam); Organization for a Better Austin v. Keefe, 402 U.S. 415, 419 (1971).

34. The dissent correctly notes that it is the motion to vacate the oral order, not the oral order *per se*, that is the subject of this appeal. (Dissenting Opinion at 32.) Nevertheless, the precise issue raised by the motion to vacate was the propriety of the oral order. Thus, the adequacy of the procedural incidents surrounding the oral order may be addressed on this appeal.

herence to procedures designed to secure full exposition of all relevant considerations. Because appellants' First Amendment rights of the press are at stake, the district court and the party seeking to restrict the press should, in my view, be assigned the primary responsibility of assuring that procedural prerequisites sensitive to First Amendment values be followed. This is particularly so where the press is at the outset merely an observer of the judicial proceedings and does not become a litigant represented by counsel until, as here, an order affecting its interests has already issued.

Moreover, this case provides an example of the ambiguity likely to be created by the hasty issuance of an oral order in circumstances such as these. "Precision of regulation must be the touchstone in an area so closely touching our most precious freedoms."[35] The extent of the restraints imposed, as the plurality's recitation of the various discussions between the court and the parties and their counsel demonstrates, is by no means clear. This ambiguity, in and of itself, raises serious vagueness problems.[36]

The oral order was not transcribed until October 10, 1973. It would appear that the press, at the time the district court orally issued the order, could have reasonably understood that they were forbidden from publishing *any* material relating to Schiavo's case that had not already been presented in the courtroom. In fact, the court stated at 4:00 P.M. on October 5th that it had told appellants that if what they published "had not come out here in the courtroom [it] would consider that contempt." Although the dissent is correct in pointing out that the court seemed to be essentially concerned with the publication of references to Schiavo's pending indictments, the order itself was not so circumscribed. A restraint encompassing a prohibition against the publication of nonprejudicial material as well as potentially prejudicial material, seems un-

35. NAACP v. Button, 371 U.S. 415, 438 (1963).

36. *See, e.g.*, Smith v. Coguen, 42 U.S.L.W. 4393 (U.S. March 25, 1974).

constitutionally overbroad [37] since it does not conform with the proffered justification of the order—protection of Sixth Amendment rights.

Indeed, the district court's opinion, itself, denying Schiavo's motion for a new trial or judgment of acquittal, strongly suggests that had the trial court set in motion procedures designed to secure a full exposition of all relevant considerations, it may well have decided that some of the less drastic prophylactic devices enumerated in *Sheppard* would have satisfactorily removed any danger of prejudice from the publication of the restrained material. In denying Schiavo's motions, the district court made the following observations:

> In further support of his motion for a new trial, Schiavo contends I committed error in refusing to grant a continuance or, in the alternative, a mistrial because of the prejudicial publicity that occurred before and during the trial. Being aware of the publicity that appeared in connection with the Martin Hess murder, I conducted an extensive voir dire of the entire panel to find if any venire man recalled the event. In addition, I instructed the jury at the close of each day's session not to listen to, read about, or participate in any discussion concerning this case. Each morning I questioned each juror individually as to whether my instructions had been obeyed. In every instance the response showed my admonitions had been followed. Although better cooperation by members of the press during trial would have been desirable, *there is absolutely no indication that any member of the jury was aware of news stories concerning either the trial or related matters.* (emphasis added)

Even if a careful voir dire were not considered adequate, there were other alternatives available. For example, since it appeared at the time of the oral order that

37. *See, e.g.,* Thornhill v. Alabama, 310 U.S. 88 (1940).

Schiavo's trial might have been concluded with one more day of evidence, the district court may well have determined that the inconvenience to jurors would have been minimal had it chosen to continue proceedings into Friday evening and, if necessary, to conduct the final day of trial on Saturday.[38]

In sum, although concurring, I do not join the plurality's opinion for the following reasons. While the court declines to hold this appeal moot, it should make clear that the opportunity for collateral attack in a contempt proceeding predicated on a silence order is not necessarily foreclosed. Also, we should hold, in my judgment, without intimating any view as to the constitutionality of a limited silence order issued after a hearing embodying the procedural safeguards indicated, that the order here must fall in any event because its issuance was not preceded by the type of hearing compelled by the First Amendment values at stake. In doing so, I would not rely, as the plurality does, on the Court's supervisory power to impose procedural guidelines. Rather, the case law establishes quite clearly that such procedural safeguards are required by First Amendment considerations. Further, the plurality does not suggest, as I do, that the order itself in this case appears to exhibit some of the very vices—vagueness and overbreadth—that the proposed procedural safeguards are intended to eliminate. Finally, there is no showing that any less drastic steps would not have been effective in eliminating the danger of prejudice.

Judges Gibbons and Garth join in this concurring opinion.

38. Assuming that a late Friday session and a Saturday session would have completed the proceedings, the district court would have been in a position to determine whether or not the jurors should have been sequestered on Friday night.

ALDISERT, *Circuit Judge*, dissenting, with whom WEIS, *Circuit Judge*, joins.

That solutions to this vexatious appeal are fragmented and do not command a majority should come as no surprise. Each solution is unerringly foreordained by the starting point of the several opinions.

I choose to begin at the beginning, to view the action of the district judge as an affirmative effort to vindicate the Sixth Amendment right of a defendant being tried in a criminal case before him. I see the First Amendment issue surfacing only as a defense lodged by appellants to the imposition of the silence order.

I.

Under the aegis of the exercise of the court's supervisory power the plurality retroactively enunciates a new rule of procedure requiring that a silence order vindicating a criminal defendant's Sixth Amendment rights, if it refers to non-parties, must (a) be reduced to writing, (b) state specifically the terms of the order and the reasons therefor, and (c) be entered on the district court docket.

But this court has no power to prescribe procedural rules for the governance of the district courts. That power is vested, by statute, in the Supreme Court. 18 U.S.C. §§ 3771, 3772; 28 U.S.C. §§ 2072, 2075. At the very most, the suggestions of the plurality should have been directed to the Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure of the Judicial Conference of the United States, 28 U.S.C. § 331, instead of incorporating them by judicial fiat in an in banc opinion.[1]

1. Judge Adams would also require certain procedures to be followed before issuance of a silence order to non-parties. His approach is premised not on our supervisory power but on the dictates of the First Amendment in a case of prior restraint. But we are not presented with a prior restraint case; the material had already been published. The silence order was directed to a prohibition of a *repetition* of limited material for an extremely limited period—one more day of trial:

> THE COURT: All I am asking is that for *one more day* until this case is over you do not publish that the man is indicted somewhere else and I really do not think that is a bit unfair.

N.T. at 5 (October 5, 1973). (Emphasis supplied.) *See, infra*, p. 44.

II.

Assuming the advisability of the suggested procedures, and assuming the supervisory power to prescribe these procedures, no trial court should be reversed for failing to follow in October, 1973, rules which were not conceived until August, 1974. *See, Fisher v. Volz,* 496 F.2d 333, 350-351 (3d Cir. 1974) (Aldisert, J. concurring and dissenting opinion). At the very least, the rules should have been applied prospectively; a practice observed by us in promulgating new jury instructions in *United States v. Barber,* 442 F.2d 517 (3d Cir. 1971), *cert. denied,* 404 U.S. 958 (1971), and *United States v. Fioravanti,* 412 F.2d 407 (3d Cir. 1969), *cert. denied,* 396 U.S. 837 (1969).

A.

It is suggested by both the plurality[2] and by Judge Adams[3] that the appellants did not know the precise contours of the silence order or the reasons for its imposition by the trial court. However, I find explicit specificity as to the *appellants* in these proceedings, Miss Stranahan and the Philadelphia Inquirer. Judge Ditter ordered them not to republish the information that the defendant Schiavo, then on trial for perjury, had been previously charged

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2. "The appellants could act only at their own risk since they were subject to the threat of criminal contempt for failure to comply with the order, and such risk was necessarily increased by the fact that *appellants had no written version of the order detailing precisely what conduct was prohibited.*" (Plurality Slip Opinion, 12.) *But see,* plurality's orientation paragraph of their opinion: "Philadelphia Newspapers, Inc. (hereinafter the 'Philadelphia Inquirer') and Susan Q. Stranahan, appellants in No. 73-1855 and petitioners in No. 73-1856, seek reversal of a written and docketed district court order refusing to vacate an oral order, announced from the bench, *enjoining them and other news media representatives from publishing, during the perjury trial of Frederick Schiavo, information concerning murder and conspiracy indictments pending against Schiavo in a related matter.*" (My emphasis.)

3. "It would appear that the press, at the time the district court orally issued the order, could have reasonably understood that they were forbidden from publishing *any* material relating to Schiavo's case that had not already been presented in the courtroom." (Page 25.)

with other crimes.[4] I find this to be a fair reading of the court's oral order as to the only appellants in these proceedings. We are not permitted, in the context of this case and controversy, to evaluate Judge Ditter's language in the abstract as to its possible effect on others. "[O]ne to whom application of a statute is constitutional will not be heard to attack the statute on the ground that impliedly it might also be taken as applying to other persons or other situations in which its application might be unconstitutional." *United States v. Raines*, 362 U.S. 17, 21 (1960). There is no reason why this doctrine should not apply in this case.

B.

Similarly, the reason for the imposition of the silence order fairly appears in the record. Judge Ditter was attempting to vindicate Schiavo's Sixth Amendment right to a fair trial before an impartial jury. It came to his attention that a newspaper article had appeared in the Philadelphia Inquirer conveying the information that Schiavo was also charged with conspiracy to kill a government informer. The trial court then meticulously conducted a *voir dire* examination of each of the jurors wherein it asked, *inter alia*, "It has come to my attention that there was an article in one of the Philadelphia papers which did refer

4. *See* Plurality opinion, n.3:

"THE COURT: And specifically, I told Miss Stranahan that she had in a story byline that had been pointed out that this defendant had been indicted in New Jersey and had been indicted for other offenses in this jurisdiction. I said that there was to be no repetition of that story or those facts and that if it was repeated I would consider it a matter of contempt of court and I would consider holding her liable for contempt and holding her editors liable for contempt."

Judge Adams seeks to characterize the court's oral order as being issued *ex parte* because "the only representative of the Philadelphia Inquirer present was Ms. Stranahan, a reporter." (Page 22 n.27.) Yet this facially innocent footnote can unwittingly mislead one into believing that Miss Stranahan, unfamiliar with the facts leading to the oral order, was a victim of her 2 p.m. fortuitous presence in Judge Ditter's courtroom. This inference is totally inaccurate. The oral order was not issued *ex parte*. Miss Stranahan, "a reporter," was the very person who wrote the offensive story bearing her byline.

to this case. . . . Did you see the article in the paper?" Following the examination the court was satisfied that the trial could continue.

Defense counsel then requested:

> Your Honor, perhaps if the newspaper could be told not to make reference to the fact, if they are reporting it in the press, that Mr. Schiavo has also been indicted in another matter. Perhaps that would take at least some of the sting away from any of that publicity that might get into the hands of the jurors.
>
> THE COURT: Well, I will be glad to make that request to the members of the press.

The members of the press were brought into the courtroom and addressed by the court.[5] On the next day a second article appeared in The Philadelphia Inquirer stating that "Schiavo also is charged by the Federal government with conspiracy to kill Hess and with first-degree murder in New Jersey." It will be noted that the second article, published after the district court's request, contained a more graphic description of the other charges against Schiavo than the earlier publication. Judge Ditter then called the press representatives to his chambers, had a colloquy with them which is not on the record and then, proceeding into open court, expressed the verbal silence order. To raise an issue about lack of reasons for the imposition of the silence order in this case is to raise an issue that is both unwarranted and undeserving of serious consideration.

5.

THE COURT: Lady and gentlemen, the defendant in this case is charged with perjury. There is an article in this morning's Inquirer which points out that he was also charged with another crime.

I would ask you, please, that if you feel that you must write about this case, write about this case and not about other cases. It makes it most difficult to carry on a criminal trial if this sort of thing happens, and I would ask each of you, please, to try to be aware of the problem with the Court and criminal defendants.

I know I can't tell you what to write, but I would hope that you would be aware of the problems that you create, at least.

All right, thank you very much.

Thus, it cannot seriously be contended that the court's order lacked specificity or that these appellants were unaware of the reasons therefor.

C.

Both the plurality opinion and Judge Adams' concurrence state that a necessary prerequisite to a silence order is adequate notice and a hearing. I agree. I also agree with Judge Adams' assertion that appellants "did not have an opportunity to present argument or call witnesses" prior to the issuance of the 2 p.m. oral order. But the 2 p.m. oral order was not appealed. Rather, it is the written and docketed order resulting from the 4 p.m. hearing which is properly before this court.

I cannot summon a modicum of agreement with Judge Adams' conclusions: "Hence, it would appear that notice to appellants was inadequate and, indeed, the brevity of the hearing . . . suggests its perfunctory character in view of the important questions at stake."

Appellants were given precise and particular notice of the desire of the court on October 4, twenty-four hours before the October 5 oral silence order. Although Judge Adams would depict the proceedings as fraught with "inadequate notice" and a "hasty issuance of an oral order," his observations overlook the fundamental role particular circumstances play in assessing the adequacy of notice and hearing. If there was brevity it must be attributed to appellants. They chose not to present witnesses; the court did not exclude them. If there was haste in the scheduling of the hearing, it must be attributed to appellants; the court did not delay; the court heard them immediately upon presentation of their motion. Appellants had an edition to put out and a story to run. They sought to have the ban lifted. They were unsuccessful. They then ran the story in defiance of the ban they unsuccessfully sought to lift. Appellants controlled both the time of the hearing and its length. They and they alone fashioned the "brevity" and

"perfunctory character" of the hearing. For this the trial court should not be faulted; *a fortiori,* for this it should not be reversed.

In sum, this court is presented with a factual complex where the oral silence order was specific as to these appellants. The reasons for its imposition were known to them. The trial court afforded them adequate notice and hearing. Accordingly, I find no prejudicial error in the procedures followed by Judge Ditter.

III.

Having found no prejudicial error in the procedure utilized by the district court, I must, and do, reach the merits of the "Free Press—Fair Trial" issue. For my part, I would take as a starting point the recognition that the First Amendment is one of several rights protected in the Bill of Rights. It is said that freedom of speech is given a preferred position. *Thomas v. Collins,* 232 U.S. 516, 527 n.12, 530 (1945); *Murdock v. Pennsylvania,* 319 U.S. 105, 115 (1943). But this is not to say that the First Amendment may pre-empt every other provision of the Bill of Rights when the interests to be protected by the First Amendment come into conflict with interests protected by other constitutional guarantees. "The preferred position of freedom of speech in a society that cherishes liberty for all does not require legislators to be insensible to claims by citizens to comfort and convenience. To enforce freedom of speech in disregard of the rights of others would be harsh and arbitrary in itself." *Kovacs v. Cooper,* 336 U.S. 77, 88 (1949). (Footnote omitted.) When the several multiple protections of basic constitutional principles conflict, a choice of values is necessitated. Professor Wechsler admonishes us that the choice must be made "on an adequate and principled analysis. . . . Surely a stronger

analysis may be advanced against a particular uncompensated taking as a violation of the fifth amendment than against a particular limitation of freedom of speech or press as a violation of the first. In this view, the 'preferred position' controversy hardly has a point—indeed, it never has been really clear what is asserted or denied to have a preference and over what. Certainly the concept is pernicious if it implies that there is any simple, almost mechanistic basis for determining priorities of values having constitutional dimension, as when there is an inescapable conflict between claims to free press and a fair trial. It has a virtue, on the other hand, insofar as it recognizes that some ordering of social values is essential; that all cannot be given equal weight, if the Bill of Rights is to be maintained."[6]

In the context of free press-fair trial, it has been held that the "preferred position" of the First Amendment must give way to "fair trial—the most fundamental of all freedoms."[7]

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6. Wechsler, *Toward Neutral Principles of Constitutional Law*, 73 HARV. L. REV. 1, 25-26 (1959) (footnote omitted).

7.

> This preferred position has never been approved in a case where a balance must be had between free speech and fair trial. Indeed, the Court has awarded the preference to fair trial. In Estes v. Texas, 381 U.S. 532, 540-541, 85 S. Ct. 1628, 1632, 14 L. Ed.2d 543, the Court said:
>
> "We have always held that the atmosphere essential to the preservation of a fair trial—the most fundamental of all freedoms—must be maintained at all costs. Our approach has been through rules, contempt proceedings and reversal of convictions obtained under unfair conditions. Here the remedy is clear and certain of application and it is our duty to continue to enforce the principles that from time immemorial have proven efficacious and necessary to a fair trial."

United States v. Tijerina, 412 F.2d 661, 667 (10th Cir. 1969), *cert. denied*, 396 U.S. 990 (1969).

Even prior to the Supreme Court's enunciation in *Estes*, the Court did not indicate that the First Amendment was to be preferred over other provisions of the Bill of Rights. Discussing the Fifth Amendment application in *Powell v. Alabama*, 287 U.S. 45 (1932), the Court noted in *Grosjean v. American Press Co., Inc.*, 297 U.S. 233, 243 (1936):

> We concluded that certain fundamental rights, safeguarded by the first *eight* amendments against federal action, . . . [also included] the fundamental right of the accused to the aid of counsel in a criminal prosecution. . . . [F]reedom of speech and of the press are rights of the *same* fundamental character. . . .

297 U.S. at 243-244. (My emphasis.)

IV.

A.

Appellants' basic argument in this appeal is clear and clean cut. They contend that no court may prevent the publication of court news under any circumstances because such news is a matter of public record.[8] This approach, of course, is simplistic. The Supreme Court has never taken the absolutist view of the First Amendment as urged by the appellants[9] and the authorities cited by them do not support this view. Learned Hand taught us that "[t]he privilege of 'free speech,' like other privileges, is not absolute; it has its seasons; a democratic society has an acute interest in its protection and cannot live without it; but it is an interest measured by its purpose."[10]

In *Maryland v. Baltimore Radio Show, Inc.*, 338 U.S. 912, 919-920 (1950), Justice Frankfurter, in a separate opinion respecting the denial of a petition for certiorari, posed the countervailing considerations:

> Freedom of the press, properly conceived, is basic to our constitutional system. Safeguards for the fair administration of criminal justice are enshrined in our Bill of Rights. Respect for both of these indispensable elements of our constitutional system presents some of the most difficult and delicate problems for adjudication when they are before the Court for adjudication. It has taken centuries of struggle to evolve our system for bringing the guilty to book, protecting the innocent, and maintaining the interests of society consonant with our democratic professions.

8. They also argue that the oral order lacked specificity. (*See, supra,* pp. 29-30.)

9. Justices Black and Douglas, long champions of the broad sweep of the First Amendment, concede "Freedom of expression can be suppressed if, and to the extent that, it is so brigaded with illegal action as to be an inseparable part of it. *Giboney v. Empire Storage Co.*, 336 U.S. 490, 498; *Labor Board v. Virginia Power Co.*, 314 U.S. 469, 477-478." *Roth v. United States*, 354 U.S. 476, 514 (1957) (dissenting opinion).

10. *NLRB v. Federbush Co., Inc.*, 121 F.2d 954, 957 (2d Cir. 1941).

> One of the demands of a democratic society is that the public should know what goes on in courts by being told by the press what happens there, to the end that the public may judge whether our system of criminal justice is fair and right. On the other hand our society has set apart court and jury as the tribunal for determining guilt or innocence on the basis of evidence adduced in court, so far as it is humanly possible. It would be the grossest perversion of all that Mr. Justice Holmes represents to suggest that it is also true of the thought behind a criminal charge ". . . that the best test of truth is the power of the thought to get itself accepted in the competition of the market." *Abrams v. United States*, 250 U. S. 616, 630. Proceedings for the determination of guilt or innocence in open court before a jury are not in competition with any other means for establishing the charge.

New York Times Co. v. United States, 403 U.S. 713, 714 (1971), was decided on a narrow issue, the Court merely holding that the government did not meet its " 'heavy burden of showing justification for the imposition of such a [prior] restraint.' Organization for a Better Austin v. Keefe, 402 U.S. 415, 419 (1971)."[11] *Near v.*

11. The opinions of the several justices concurring in the majority opinion in *New York Times v. United States, supra*, are instructive. Unlike the clear Sixth Amendment principle which collides with the First Amendment in this case, in the Pentagon papers case there was no explicit constitutional protection inuring to the President. Justice Black observed that the government relied only on "the constitutional power of the President over the conduct of foreign affairs and his authority as Commander-in-Chief." 403 U.S. at 718. Justice Douglas, concurring with Justice Black, also observed: "There is, moreover, no statute barring the publication by the press of the material which the Times and the Post seek to use." 403 U.S. at 720. Justice Brennan emphasized the burden associated with prior restraint and emphasized that "if the Executive Branch seeks judicial aid in preventing publication, it must inevitably submit the basis upon which that aid is sought to scrutiny by the judiciary." 403 U.S. at 727. Justice Stewart could not say that disclosure of any of the Pentagon papers will surely result in "direct, immediate and unreported damage to our Nation or its people. That being so, there can . . . be but one judicial resolution of the issues before us." 403 U.S. at 730. Justice White said: "I do not say that in no circumstances would the First Amendment permit an injunction against publishing information about government

Minnesota, 283 U.S. 697, 708 (1931), stated flatly: "Liberty of speech, and of the press, is also not an absolute right, and the State may punish its abuse."

Coming to grips with the free press-fair trial issue, *Sheppard v. Maxwell, supra*, 384 U.S. 333, 349-350, 362 (1966), announced the doctrine which I embrace today—the press has virtually unlimited freedom to publish so long as there is "no threat or menace to the integrity of the trial":

> This Court has . . . been unwilling to place any direct limitations on the freedom traditionally exercised by the news media for "[w]hat transpires in the court room is public property." *Craig v. Harney*, 331 U.S. 367, 374 (1947). The "unqualified prohibitions laid down by the framers were intended to give to liberty of the press . . . the broadest scope that could be countenanced in an orderly society." *Bridges v. California*, 314 U.S. 252, 265 (1941). And where there was "no threat or menace to the integrity of the trial," *Craig v. Harney, supra*, at 377, we have consistently required that the press have a free hand, even though we sometimes deplored its sensationalism.
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> . . .
>
> Due process requires that the accused receive a trial by an impartial jury free from outside influences.

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11. (Cont'd.)
plans or operations, . . ." but found that the government "has not satisfied the very heavy burden that it must meet to warrant an injunction. . . ." 403 U.S. at 731, and suggested that Congress had provided criminal sanctions, 403 U.S. at 737-738, for use by the government. Justice Marshall said: "The issue is whether this Court or the Congress has the power to make law. . . . The problem here is whether in these particular cases the Executive Branch has authority to invoke the equity jurisdiction of the courts to protect what it believes to be the national interest." 403 U.S. at 741. Relying on the Congressional history of 18 U.S.C. §793(e), Justice Marshall found that "Congress has specifically rejected passing legislation that would have clearly given the President the power he seeks here and made the current activity of the newspapers unlawful." 403 U.S. at 745. In sum, the *New York Times* case does not support appellants' constitutional contention of the absolute supremacy of the First Amendment.

> Given the pervasiveness of modern communications and the difficulty of effacing prejudicial publicity from the minds of the jurors, the trial courts must take strong measures to ensure that the balance is never weighed against the accused. And appellate tribunals have the duty to make an independent evaluation of the circumstances.

In *Branzburg v. Hayes*, 408 U.S. 665, 684-685 (1972), the plurality opinion [12] flatly states: "Newsmen . . . may be prohibited from attending or publishing information about trials if such restrictions are necessary to assure a defendant a fair trial before an impartial tribunal." *Sheppard* also recognized: "From the cases coming [to the Supreme Court] . . . we note that unfair and prejudicial news comment on pending trials has been increasingly prevalent. . . . If publicity during the proceedings threatens the fairness of the trial, a new trial should be ordered. But we must remember that reversals are but palliatives; the cure lies in those remedial measures that will prevent the prejudice at its inception." 384 U.S. at 362, 363.[13]

B.

It is therefore necessary to determine how to accommodate the interest in full, robust and unrestricted dissemination of information as protected by the First Amendment with the fundamental requirement that a jury's verdict must be based upon the evidence adduced at trial

12. By Justice White for himself, the Chief Justice, Justice Blackmun and Justice Rehnquist. Justice Powell, concurring, made no challenge to this statement.

13. More recently we have noted *United States v. Carmine Persico*, No. 72-Cr-1221 (E.D. N.Y. 1972), in which the press was requested to refrain from emphasizing the past criminal record of the defendant on trial and where, as here, the press refused to cooperate. The publications precipitated a mistrial on September 25, 1973. For a penetrating analysis of the root issue before us, *see The Issue of Fair Trial v. Free Press*, NEW YORK L.J., June 20-21, 1974, by John R. Bartels, United States District Judge, who presided in the *Persico* case.

as protected by the Sixth Amendment.[14] Only the most cynical would suggest that a jury would be insensitive to the receipt of information that a defendant on trial for perjury was also "charged with conspiring to kill a government informer," as published by the Inquirer on October 4, 1973, and "charged by the Federal government with conspiring to kill Hess and with first-degree murder in New Jersey" as published the next day. Appellants do not seem to challenge the presence of this present threat to the integrity of a fair trial. Instead their counsel suggested to the trial court: "Either you keep the jury sequestered until the trial is completed, if you think that is necessary, or I think it is sufficient here to instruct the jurors not to read anything in the paper about this case."

This then brings me to the responsibility of deciding whether the district court abused its discretion in issuing a silence order instead of employing alternate remedies of sequestration, additional *voir dire,* additional instructions, and the declaration of a mistrial.

Sequestering a jury is the most efficient method of isolating a jury from influences beyond the courtroom. To recognize the effectiveness of this device, however, is not to ignore its attendant harmful effects. Under certain circumstances, the harm to a defendant may be minimized. When prospective jurors know at the time of empanelling that they are to be sequestered, they may advise court and counsel at *voir dire* of any health or family problems which would militate against service on a sequestered jury. But, when this device is foisted upon jurors in mid-trial, I am not at all certain that the act of sequestration does not have the capacity to generate possible animosity against the

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14. The fundamental nature of one's Sixth Amendment right to be tried by an impartial tribunal found vivid expression in *Turner v. Louisiana,* 379 U.S. 466, 472 (1965): "The requirement that a jury's verdict 'must be based upon the evidence developed at the trial' goes to the fundamental integrity of all that is embraced in the constitutional concept of trial by jury." (Footnote omitted.)

defendant.[15] Should sequestration be ordered mid-trial as contended here, with an accompanying inquiry as to what was read or heard in the newspaper or broadcast media, the potential for prejudice is heightened, it being reasonable for jurors to conclude that comments being circulated were so serious and so adverse to the defendant that sequestration was mandated.

Appellants' suggestion that the problem may be cured by a simple instruction to the "jurors not to read anything in the papers about this case" is simplistic. To not read a certain article one must first scan the news stories or at least the headlines to determine what not to read; thus, to not read anything about a case one must first read.

A *voir dire* examination as to whether jurors have read about the case has but limited effect. Judge Ditter utilized this device on October 4, 1973. But to use *voir dire* daily, or repeatedly, might be a questionable practice because of its potential for generating self-induced infirmities by the very act of repetition. As a prophylactic measure, *voir dire* inquiry is to be encouraged; as a guaranteed method of insuring the trial's integrity, it leaves much to be desired. Complete success of this method requires total candor in the jurors' responses to special interrogatories, responses which are totally voluntary and completely free of having been influenced by a fear of sanctions by the court if a juror freely admits reading that which he had been forbidden to read.[16]

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15. The jurors are denied the comforts of home and family. Their contacts and communications with the outside world are limited. In a case where the defendant is on bail during a trial, it is not beyond the probabilities of human experience to suggest a possibly generating of animosity toward the defendant who is free while they are confined.

16. "One aspect of a recently completed study of the workings of the jury system was an examination of the nature and effectiveness of *voir dire* examinations of jurors in civil and criminal cases. On the basis of personal interviews of 225 jurors serving on a variety of cases over a one and one-half year period in a Federal District Court in the Midwest, it was concluded that '*voir dire* is grossly ineffective as a screening mechanism' and that 'jurors often, either consciously or unconsciously, lie on *voir dire*.' Broeder, *Voir Dire Examinations: An Empirical Study*, 38 So. CAL. L. REV. 503, 528 (1965)." ABA Standards, Fair Trial and Free Press, 56.

A fourth alternative is the declaration of a mistrial. In the *Persico* case, *supra*, note 13, the defendant agreed to waive trial by jury after the mistrial. But such a waiver resulted in the defendant abandoning a constitutional right. Alternatively, the court might postpone retrial to allow the passage of time to dilute the deleterious effect of the publication, or it might order a change of venue. Although this may be the only available alternative in certain cases, we have recently recounted the prejudice, financial and otherwise, inuring to a litigant put to the inconvenience of second trials.[17] *Ferguson v. Eakle*, 492 F.2d 26 (3d Cir. 1974). These publications did not relate to "hot news." They did not describe contemporary happenings. They described narrative or historical facts of past indictments. There was not the slightest indication that The Philadelphia Inquirer would not repeat the publications at a second trial. Appellants' persistence in continuing to publish an account that the defendant on trial in the Philadelphia federal court for perjury, was also under another federal indictment of conspiracy to commit murder as well as a state indictment

17.

These remedies and devices, then, are in need of greater refinement, and in many cases minimum constitutional standards appear to compel such a course. But in the Committee's view this course, while necessary, is not sufficient in itself. None of these techniques can at the same time (1) assure a fair trial in the face of prejudicial disclosures that saturate the jurisdiction and (2) preserve other rights of the defendant and the right of the people to see that the guilty are properly punished. For example, closing of certain judicial hearings requires waiver of the accused's right to a public trial and cannot prevent disclosures from other sources. A continuance, if it is to be long enough to dissipate the effects of the potentially prejudicial publicity, may require the defendant to sacrifice his right to a speedy trial. And its purpose will be defeated if the publicity is renewed when the case finally comes up. A change of venue may also require the sacrifice of state or federal constitutional rights (as will waiver of jury trial) and will undoubtedly be ineffective if the case is one of wide notoriety. *Voir dire*, as already noted, cannot fully cope with a juror's failure to be candid or with influences that occur below the level of consciousness. Sequestration of the jury does not remedy the effects of pretrial publicity and may itself prejudice the defendant because of the inconvenience and annoyance to the jurors. Admonitions to the jury have often proved ineffective. And finally, declaration of a mistrial or reversal of a conviction may involve the expense and inconvenience of a second trial, and if a second trial cannot be had, may result in the freeing of a guilty man who, but for the unfairness of his initial trial, would have been punished for his crime.

ABA Standards, Fair Trial and Free Press, 75.

for murder, gave no assurance that declaring a mistrial and rescheduling the case would have eliminated the problem.

Having discussed what I consider to be the deficiencies in sequestration, additional *voir dire*, additional instructions, and mistrial in this case, I am persuaded that there was no abuse of discretion in the district court's issuance of a silence order. Clearly, the district court had an option to exercise its discretion in an effort to vindicate the Sixth Amendment rights of the defendant. Professor Maurice Rosenberg reminds us:

> If the word discretion conveys to legal minds any solid core of meaning, one central idea above all others, it is the idea of *choice*. To say that a court has discretion in a given area of law is to say that it is not bound to decide the question one way rather than another.[18]

He distinguishes between primary discretion, "a wide range of choice to do what [an adjudicator] pleases," a type of unreviewable discretion,[19] which is not before us here, and a type of reviewable discretion in a secondary form, which is before us:

> The other type of discretion, the secondary form, has to do with hierarchical relations among judges. It enters the picture when the system tries to prescribe the degree of finality and authority a lower court's

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18. M. Rosenberg, *Judicial Discretion of the Trial Court, Viewed From Above*, 22 SYRACUSE L. REV. 635, 636-637 (1971) (footnote omitted).

19.

> When an adjudicator has the primary type, he has decision-making discretion, a wide range of choice as to what he decides, free from the constraints which characteristically attach whenever legal rules enter the decision process. When the law accords primary discretion in the highest degree in a particular area, it says in effect that the court is free to render the decision it chooses; that decision-constraining rules do not exist here; and that even looser principles or guidelines have not been formulated. In such an area, the court can do no wrong, legally speaking, for there is no officially right or wrong answer.

Ibid., at 637.

> decision enjoys in the higher courts. Specifically, it comes into full play when the rules of review accord the lower court's decision an unusual amount of insulation from appellate revision. In this sense, discretion is a review-restraining concept. It gives the trial judge a right to be wrong without incurring reversal.[20]

I am attracted to the expression of scope of appellate review—a rudimentary approach to a definition of "abuse of discretion"—enunciated by the Second Circuit:

> Had any one of us been in a position to exercise the discretion committed to a trial judge when such a request is made, we have no hesitancy in stating that the decision would have been otherwise; but as appellate judges we cannot find that the action of the district judge was so unreasonable or so arbitrary as to amount to a prejudicial abuse of the discretion necessary to repose in trial judges during the conduct of a trial.[21]

The keynote of this approach was earlier described by Judge Henry J. Friendly as an attitude of "appellate deference to a determination of the district judge" in an area committed to his discretion.[22] So tested, I do not find the district court's rejection of the alternate trial-controlling or trial-postponing remedies as an exercise of discretion "so unreasonable or so arbitrary as to amount to a prejudicial abuse."

C.

Counterposed against the incursions into the integrity of a defendant's right to a fair trial is the public interest in court proceedings, in Justice Frankfurter's felicitous expression, "[o]ne of the demands of a democratic society is

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20. *Ibid.*

21. *Napolitano v. Compania Sud Americana de Vapores*, 421 F.2d 382, 384 (2d Cir. 1970).

22. *Noonan v. Cunard Steamship Co.*, 375 F.2d 69, 71 (2d Cir. 1967).

that the public should know what goes on in courts by being told by the press what happens there. . . ." *Maryland v. Baltimore Radio Show, Inc., supra,* 338 U.S. at 920. I am persuaded that the public interest here was already satisfied. First, the subject matter of the restraint did not relate to the district court trial in Philadelphia, but to an historical narrative of past separate federal and state indictments in New Jersey. It was not critical to a complete reporting of immediate courtroom events. Second, the subject matter related to indictments, which are merely accusations, not to judicial determinations of guilt. Third, the information had already been disseminated on October 4 and repeated and expanded on October 5. Fourth, because it had already been published twice and related to past events of grand jury actions, the subject matter did not constitute "hot news." Any residual newsworthiness which inhered in these utterances could have been preserved for the short time, the "one more day," requested by Judge Ditter.

What is here is not prior restraint, *New Jersey State Lottery Commission v. United States,* — F.2d — (3d Cir. No. 72-1878, January 2, 1974) (in banc), but a ban on the repetition of previously published information for "*one more day,*" until the trial concluded. We are reminded in *Kingsley Books, Inc. v. Brown,* 354 U.S. 436, 441 (1957): "Just as *Near v. Minnesota,* . . . [283 U.S. 697 (1931)] one of the landmark opinions in shaping the constitutional protection of freedom of speech and of the press, left no doubts that 'Liberty of speech, and of the press, is also not an absolute right,' 283 U.S. at 708, it likewise made clear that 'the protection even as to previous restraint is not absolutely unlimited.' *Id.* at 716. To be sure, the limitation is the exception; it is to be closely confined so as to preclude what may fairly be deemed licensing or censorship." *Kingsley* permitted an injunction *pendente lite* because the New York statutory scheme permitted a final decision on the merits two days after trial which in turn had to be set

one day after joinder of issue. This is a time period far in excess of the one day requested by Judge Ditter. Thus we are not presented with the problem met in *Grove Press Inc. v. City of Philadelphia*, 418 F.2d 82 (3d Cir. 1969), where we found that the Pennsylvania procedural rules governing equity actions did not satisfy the requirement of *Freedman v. Maryland*, 380 U.S. 51 (1965), because the state's procedural rules did not contain time limits guaranteeing a prompt final decision on the merits after the issuance of a preliminary injunction.

V.

I would affirm the district court, under the procedural posture of this case, because neither at the hearing nor on appeal have appellants urged what I believe to be a critical issue when the countervailing precepts of the Sixth and First Amendments collide—that the draconian act of injunction may issue only if no adequate remedy at law is available.

I am not at all certain that any remedy at law exists to vindicate the Sixth Amendment rights of a defendant which are impinged by unfettered expressions of the press. As the moving party in the motion to vacate the silence order, appellants had the burden of demonstrating the existence of an adequate remedy at law. As a corollary it would seem that the movant for a silence order has the burden of establishing the absence of an adequate legal remedy as a prerequisite to obtaining the order.

It has become the recent fashion to resort to money damages for, in Roscoe Pound's phrase, "substituted redress" of, invaded rights. Thus a boundless galaxy of § 1983 cases[23] has appeared in our judicial skies where the infringer has operated under color of state law; and if the infringer is a federal officer, the claimant may enter federal court with credentials furnished by *Bivens v. Six Unknown*

23. 42 U.S.C. § 1983, one of the Civil Rights Acts.

Named Agents, 403 U.S. 388 (1971) and *Bell v. Hood*, 327 U.S. 678 (1946).

Where, as here, the putative infringer is a private person, the availability of a remedy at law is not free from considerable doubt. To be sure, because it was not raised below, we must await the proper case or controversy to furnish some guidance, but at least it is arguable that a remedy may exist in the federal courts under one of the less familiar Civil Rights Acts, 42 U.S.C. §1985(3): "If two or more persons . . . conspire . . . for the purpose of depriving, either directly or indirectly, any person or class of persons . . . of equal privileges and immunities under the laws . . . the party so injured or deprived may have an action for the recovery of damages, occasioned by such injury or deprivation, against any one or more of the conspirators." A leading commentator argues that due process rights are protected by this section although he admits the existence of authority to the contrary.[24]

Then, too, there is the possibility, also admittedly untested, that an action at law may lie in Pennsylvania courts for an action in damages based on a violation of Art. 1, §9 of the Constitution of Pennsylvania: "In all criminal prosecutions, the accused [cannot] . . . be deprived of his life, liberty or property, unless by the judgment of his peers or the law of the land." *Commonwealth v. Petrillo*, 338 Pa. 65, 12 A.2d 317, 333 (1940), holds that this Pennsylvania constitutional provision guarantees an accused the due process right to a fair trial. I would be more confident of the availability of this remedy if my research indicated that the provisions of the state constitution were self-executing, unlike the federal constitution which requires Congressional action to vest remedial district court jurisdiction. *Cary v. Curtis*, 3 How. 236, 11 L. Ed. 576 (1845); *Sheldon v. Sill*, 8 How. 441, 12 L. Ed. 1147 (1850). *Cf.*, *Martin v. Hunter's Lessee*, 1 WHEAT. 304, 4 L. Ed. 97

24. C. Antieau, FEDERAL CIVIL RIGHTS ACT, §99, p. 129 (1971).

(1816). A cursory research discloses no cases affirming or negating a self-executionary status of the Pennsylvania Constitution.

Without the benefit of initial consideration by the trial court, or brief or argument here, I cannot, without more, conclude that an adequate remedy at law exists to have denied Schiavo the benefit of a silence order, injunctive in nature. In any event, I find that appellants had the burden of persuasion on this issue in their motion to vacate the oral silence order. They did not meet their burden.

VI.

The judicial angle of vision in testing any restraint of speech must encompass the various interests to be protected by the separate components of the Bill of Rights. Justice Frankfurter has reminded us: "The phrase 'prior restraint' is not a self-wielding sword. Nor can it serve as a talismanic test. The duty of closer analysis and critical judgment in applying the thought behind the phrase has thus been authoritatively put by one who brings weighty learning to his support of constitutionally protected liberties: 'What is needed,' writes Professor Paul A. Freund, 'is a pragmatic assessment of its operation in the particular circumstances. The generalization that prior restraint is particularly obnoxious in civil liberties cases must yield to more particularistic analysis.' The Supreme Court and Civil Liberties, 4 Vand. L. Rev. 533, 539." *Kingsley Books, Inc. v. Brown, supra*, 354 U.S. at 441-442.

The particularistic analysis ultimately requires a choice between conflicting interests to determine whether a limitation in expression is mandated on the basis of a threat to the defendant's Sixth Amendment right to receive a trial by an impartial jury. We must not be insensitive to the dangers that lurk in any choice, but the high responsibilities of this judicial office require that a choice be made. It does not augur well to postpone this choice, or to pass this burden to another time.

I am persuaded that in this case the scales must be tipped to vindicate the defendant's fundamental right to receive a fair trial at the expense of some limited impairment of First Amendment rights. The procedure followed by the district court here, in the exercise of its inherent powers to "take strong measures to insure that the balance is never weighed against the accused and to invoke the power enunciated in *Branzburg v. Hayes, supra,* was proper.

I am aware that a certain institutional value is affixed to any decision of this court, but the genius of our jurisprudential tradition is that the parameters of a holding are limited to the factual complex that creates it. Here the facts do not fit the mold of classic prior restraint; it was a restraint upon a repetition of previously disseminated public utterances. The publication was not "hot news." The restraint was upon repetitive, not original, publication. Moreover, the judicial ban was not open-ended; it was restricted to an extremely limited period of time, in the words of the court, "for one more day." I would conclude that any interest here protected by the First Amendment must be subordinated, under the circumstances of this case, to countervailing interests protected by the Sixth Amendment.

I would affirm the judgment of the district court.

A True Copy:

Teste:

Clerk of the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.

(A.O.—U. S. Courts, International Printing Co., Phila., Pa.)

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE THIRD CIRCUIT.

No. 73-1855.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

FREDERICK SCHIAVO

PHILADELPHIA NEWSPAPERS, INC.,
AND SUSAN Q. STRANHAN,
Appellants.

(D. C. Criminal No. 73-302)

ON APPEAL FROM THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

Present: SEITZ, *Chief Judge* and VAN DUSEN, ALDISERT, ADAMS, GIBBONS, ROSENN, HUNTER, WEIS and GARTH, *Circuit Judges.*

JUDGMENT ON REHEARING.

This cause came on to be heard on the record from the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania and was reargued by counsel.

On consideration whereof, it is now here ordered and adjudged by this Court that the written order of the said

District Court, filed October 5, 1973, be and the same is hereby reversed and the cause remanded for such action as may be necessary, consistent with the opinion of this Court.

ATTEST:

THOMAS F. QUINN,
Clerk.

August 8, 1974

Certified as a true copy and issued in lieu of a formal mandate on August 30, 1974.

Test: THOMAS F. QUINN
Clerk, United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS

No. 73-1856

PHILADELPHIA NEWSPAPERS, INC.
AND SUSAN Q. STRANAHAN,
Petitioners,

v.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
AND FREDERICK SCHIAVO,
Respondents,

and

THE HONORABLE J. WILLIAM DITTER, JR.,
Nominal Respondents.

Present: SEITZ, *Chief Judge* and VAN DUSEN, ALDISERT, ADAMS, GIBBONS, ROSENN, HUNTER, WEIS and GARTH, *Circuit Judges*

It is ORDERED that the petition for a writ of mandamus and/or prohibition be, and the same is hereby denied as moot, in accordance with the opinion of this Court.

ATTEST:
THOMAS F. QUINN,
Clerk.

August 8, 1974

FEDERAL CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS AND STATUTES INVOLVED.

The following Amendments to the Constitution of the United States are involved:

AMENDMENT I—FREEDOM OF RELIGION, SPEECH AND PRESS; PEACEFUL ASSEMBLAGE; PETITION OF GRIEVANCES.

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

AMENDMENT VI—JURY TRIAL FOR CRIMES, AND PROCEDURAL RIGHTS.

In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the Assistance of Counsel for his defence.

The following federal statutes are involved:

28 U. S. C. § 2072:

Rules of civil procedure for district courts.

The Supreme Court shall have the power to prescribe, by general rules, the forms of process, writs, pleadings, and motions, and the practice and procedure of the district courts of the United States in civil actions.

Such rules shall not abridge, enlarge or modify any substantive right and shall preserve the right of trial by jury as at common law and as declared by the Seventh Amendment to the Constitution.

Such rules shall not take effect until they have been reported to Congress by the Chief Justice at or after the beginning of a regular session thereof but not later than the first day of May, and until the expiration of ninety days after they have been thus reported.

All laws in conflict with such rules shall be of no further force or effect after such rules have taken effect. Nothing in this title, anything therein to the contrary notwithstanding, shall in any way limit, supersede, or repeal any such rules heretofore prescribed by the Supreme Court.

18 U. S. C. § 3771:

Procedure to and including verdict.

The Supreme Court of the United States shall have the power to prescribe, from time to time, rules of pleading, practice, and procedure with respect to any or all proceedings prior to and including verdict, or finding of guilty or not guilty by the court if a jury has been waived, or plea of guilty, in criminal cases and proceedings to punish for criminal contempt of court in the United States district courts, in the district courts for the District of the Canal Zone and the Virgin Islands, in the Supreme Court of Puerto Rico, and in proceedings before United States magistrates. Such rules shall not take effect until they have been reported to Congress by the Chief Justice at or after the beginning of a regular session thereof but not later than the first day of May, and until the expiration of ninety days after they have been thus reported. All laws in conflict with such rules shall be of no further force or effect after such rules have taken effect.

Nothing in this title, anything therein to the contrary notwithstanding, shall in any way limit, supersede, or repeal any such rules heretofore prescribed by the Supreme Court.

18 U. S. C. § 3772:

Procedure after verdict.

The Supreme Court of the United States shall have the power to prescribe, from time to time, rules of practice and procedure with respect to any or all proceedings after verdict, or finding of guilt by the court if a jury has been waived, or plea of guilty, in criminal cases and proceedings to punish for criminal contempt in the United States district courts, in the district courts for the District of the Canal Zone and the Virgin Islands, in the Supreme Court of Puerto Rico, in the United States courts of appeals, and in the Supreme Court of the United States. This section shall not give the Supreme Court power to abridge the right of the accused to apply for withdrawal of a plea of guilty, if such application be made within ten days after entry of such plea, and before sentence is imposed.

The right of appeal shall continue in those cases in which appeals are authorized by law, but the rules made as herein authorized may prescribe the times for and manner of taking appeals and applying for writs of certiorari and preparing records and bills of exceptions and the conditions on which supersedeas or bail may be allowed.

The Supreme Court may fix the dates when such rules shall take effect and the extent to which they shall apply to proceedings then pending, and after they become effective all laws in conflict therewith shall be of no further force.

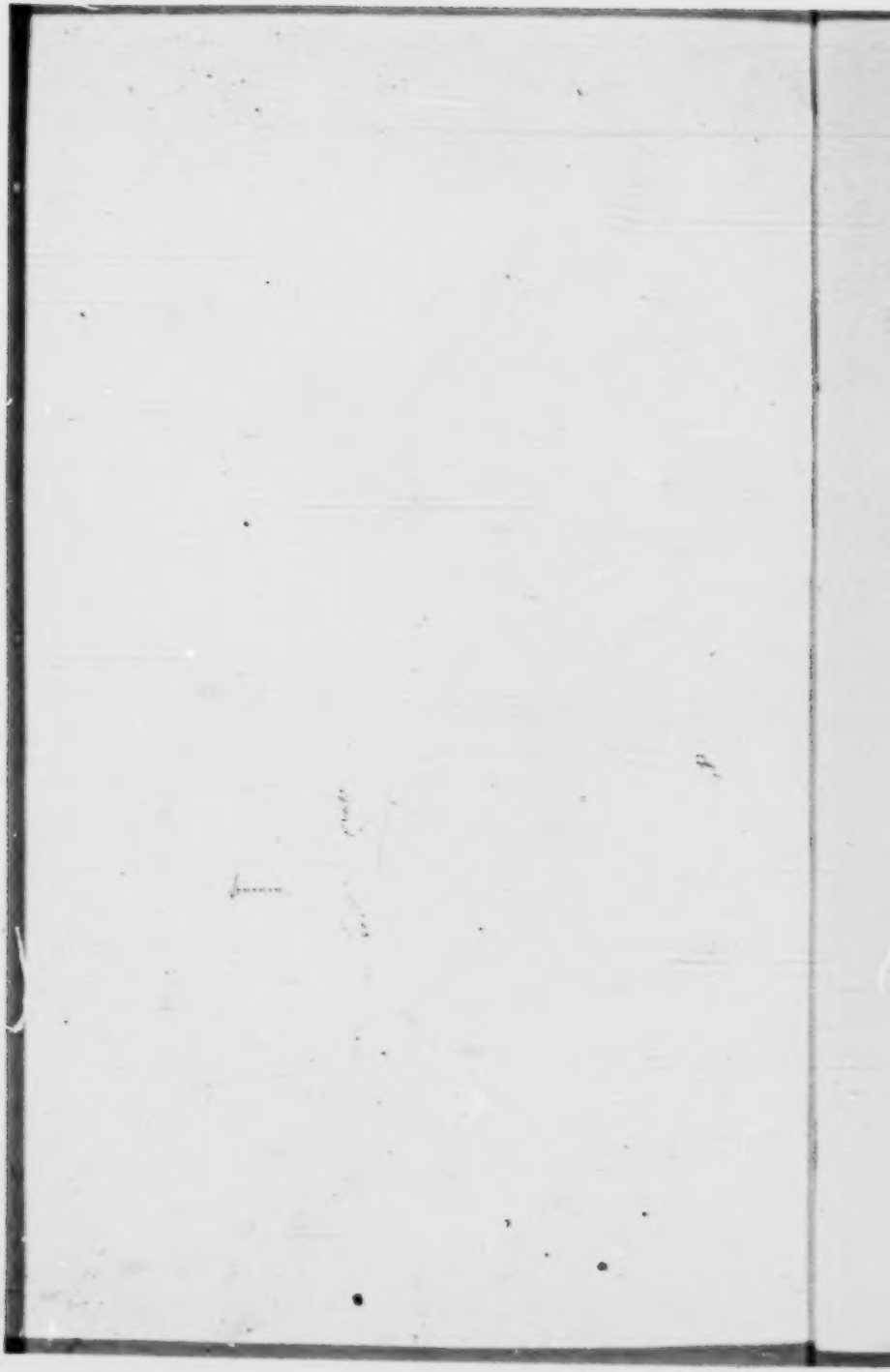
Nothing in this title, anything therein to the contrary notwithstanding, shall in any way limit, supersede, or re-

peal any such rules heretofore prescribed by the Supreme Court.

28 U. S. C. § 331, entitled "Judicial Conference of the United States", the relevant portion of which provides:

The conference shall make a comprehensive survey of the condition of business in the courts of the United States and prepare plans for assignment of judges to or from circuits or districts where necessary, and shall submit suggestions to the various courts, in the interest of uniformity and expedition of business.

The Conference shall also carry on a continuous study of the operation and effect of the general rules of practice and procedure now or hereafter in use as prescribed by the Supreme Court for the other courts of the United States pursuant to law. Such changes in and additions to those rules as the Conference may deem desirable to promote simplicity in procedure, fairness in administration, the just determination of litigation, and the elimination of unjustifiable expense and delay shall be recommended by the Conference from time to time to the Supreme Court for its consideration and adoption, modification or rejection, in accordance with law.



SUPREME COURT, U. S.

DEC 3 1974

MICHAEL RODAK, JR., CLERK

IN THE

Supreme Court of the United States

October Term, 1974.

No. 74-546.

THE HONORABLE J. WILLIAM DITTER, JR.,
Petitioner,

v.

PHILADELPHIA NEWSPAPERS, INC. and SUSAN Q. STRANAHAN, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, FREDERICK SCHIAVO,
Respondents.

BRIEF OF RESPONDENTS PHILADELPHIA NEWSPAPERS, INC. AND SUSAN Q. STRANAHAN IN OPPOSITION TO THE PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE THIRD CIRCUIT.

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BRIEF IN OPPOSITION TO THE PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE THIRD CIRCUIT.

To the Honorable Chief Justice, and the Associate Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States:

Respondents Philadelphia Newspapers, Inc. and Susan Q. Stranahan respectfully urge that, because petitioner was not a party in the proceedings below, this Court lacks jurisdiction over the Petition for a Writ of Certiorari to review the judgment on rehearing and *en banc* Opinion of the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, entered on August 8, 1974, and as amended. In the alternative, said respondents pray that the petition be denied.

JURISDICTION.

This Court has no jurisdiction to entertain the instant Petition, as the petitioner, the Honorable J. William Ditter, Jr., was not a party to the action below, as required by 28 U. S. C. § 1254(1).

COUNTERSTATEMENT OF THE QUESTIONS PRESENTED.

1. Can this Court properly consider a petition for certiorari filed by the trial court judge who was not a party in the underlying criminal case nor in the appeal below?

2. Did not the Court of Appeals properly—as a matter of constitutional law and in the exercise of its supervisory power—require: (a) that an order forbidding the press from publishing public record information concerning a criminal defendant, be issued, if at all, only after notice and prompt hearing; (b) that such an Order be reduced to a writing stating specifically the terms of the restraint and the reasons therefor; and (c) that such an Order be entered on the district court docket?

COUNTERSTATEMENT OF THE CASE.

Respondents respectfully submit that the following facts additional to those set forth in the Petition are material to its determination:

1. After respondents perfected an appeal to the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit from the orders of petitioner entered earlier that day, respondents also petitioned for a writ of mandamus and/or prohibition to bar enforcement of the "gag" order.

2. On August 8, 1974, when the Court of Appeals issued its *en banc* Opinion and Order in the appeal, reversing and remanding, which is the subject of the instant petition, that court denied the petition for mandamus and/or prohibition as moot.

3. On June 1, 1973, respondent Frederick Schiavo was indicted on charges of committing perjury before a Grand Jury investigating the events surrounding the bombing death of Martin Allan Hess, a government informer in a celebrated and bizarre drug smuggling case. On June 15, 1973, when Schiavo and four others were indicted on charges of conspiracy to obstruct the administration of justice by murdering the government's witness, Hess, the United States Attorney issued a press release announcing the return of this conspiracy indictment, noting specifically that Schiavo had previously been indicted by a Camden County Grand Jury on charges of murder and conspiracy, and by the federal Grand Jury on charges of perjury (Joint Appendix, hereinafter referred to as "J. A.", p. 115). Thus, the newspapers in reporting on the Schiavo perjury trial did no more than the U. S. Attorney had done in reporting the indictments to the press and public.

4. On October 5, 1974, Judge Ditter called the news media representatives before him without prior notice and orally ordered them, on pain of contempt, not to publish matters about the criminal defendant Schiavo which "were not said here in the courtroom" (J. A. p. 49). When counsel for these respondents appeared that same afternoon to ask that the oral order be vacated, the precise conduct which had been enjoined by the oral order was unclear.[1] The only written order entered was an order denying the motion to vacate the prior oral order, and denying a stay pending appeal (J. A. p. 63).

5. On May 14, 1974, after defendant Schiavo had been found guilty, petitioner issued an Opinion and Order denying defendant's Motion for a New Trial and judgment of acquittal. At page 4 of his Opinion, petitioner stated as follows:

> "In further support of his motion for a new trial, Schiavo contends I committed error in refusing to grant a continuance or, in the alternative, a mistrial because of the prejudicial publicity that occurred before and during the trial. Being aware of the publicity that appeared in connection with the Martin Hess murder,

1. For example, did the order permit publication of events that transpired in the courtroom only on the day in question, or did it permit publication of anything that had transpired from the commencement of the trial? Did the order preclude publication of matters that transpired in open court but out of the presence of the jury? Could reference be made to side bar conferences or rulings on evidence? Could any background facts be given, such as the length of service or background of the presiding judge, the possible penalties for the offenses charged, the racial or other make-up of the jury, which might not have been mentioned in open court? Did the order prevent publication of a picture of the defendant in connection with a report on the events at the trial? Many more such questions concerning the nature and scope of the order can be imagined, and its ambiguities were compounded by the fact that neither respondents nor their counsel were afforded an opportunity to review a transcript of the Order before being bound by its terms.

> I conducted an extensive voir dire of the entire panel to find if any venireman recalled the event. In addition, I instructed the jury at the close of each day's session not to listen to, read about, or participate in any discussion concerning this case. Each morning I questioned each juror individually as to whether my instructions had been obeyed. In every instance the response showed my admonitions had been followed. Although better cooperation by certain members of the press during the trial would have been desirable, there is absolutely no indication that any member of the jury was aware of news stories concerning either the trial or related matters. . . . Thus, defendant's argument is without merit." (citations omitted).

On November 19, 1974, Schiavo's conviction was affirmed by the Court below.

ARGUMENT.

I. This Court Lacks Jurisdiction to Entertain the Instant Petition.

Petitioner has invoked the jurisdiction of this Court under 28 U. S. C. § 1254(1), which provides for review of cases in the courts of appeals by the Supreme Court:

> "By writ of certiorari granted upon the petition of *any party to any civil or criminal case,* before or after rendition of judgment or decree;" (emphasis added).

Here, the only judgment or decree rendered by the Court of Appeals was in respondents' appeal, in which petitioner was not even a nominal party. Although petitioner was named as a nominal party in the mandamus proceeding (pursuant to procedures previously established by the Court of Appeals in *Rapp v. Van Dusen,* 350 F. 2d 806 (3d Cir. 1965)), the Court below in its *en banc* opinion of August 8, 1974, ruled that: "Because our disposition of the appeal . . . renders the petition for a writ of mandamus and/or prohibition moot, such petition will be denied . . . ." (Slip Op. p. 3, n. 1). Thus, the only proceeding to which petitioner was even nominally a party was determined in his favor.

Because Judge Ditter was not a "party" to the Opinion and Order from which he seeks review, he has no standing to file the instant petition. See, *UAW, Local 283 v. Scofield,* 382 U. S. 205, 86 S. Ct. 373, 15 L. Ed. 2d 272 (1965).

II. It Is Inappropriate for This Court to Consider a Petition Filed by a Federal District Court Judge.

In *Rapp v. Van Dusen*, 350 F. 2d 806 (3d Cir. 1965), it was held that where mandamus is used to secure an interlocutory review of the intrinsic merits of a judicial act, the respondent judge will be deemed a "nominal party only." 350 F. 2d at 812-813. The reasoning behind such procedure was succinctly stated as follows:

> "It will keep him [the district judge] from becoming entangled as an active party to litigation in which his role is judicial and in which he has no personal interest. It will make it unnecessary for a judge to retain counsel and thus will avoid burdening him with the undesirable alternatives of acting as his own counsel, or seeking outside counsel to serve him with or without charge, or obtaining the services of counsel for the successful parties who continue to serve their clients by acting as his nominal counsel. A judge will thus be guarded from engaging in *ex parte* discussions with counsel or aligning himself even temporarily with one side in pending litigation." 350 F. 2d at 813.[2]

This Court had earlier recognized that mandamus has "the unfortunate consequence of making the judge a litigant, obliged to obtain personal counsel or to leave his defense to one of the litigants before him." *Ex parte Fahey*, 332

---

2. The Court further reasoned:

> "For the proper administration of justice requires of a judge not only actual impartiality, but also the appearance of a detached impartiality. Litigants are entitled, moreover, to a judge whose unconscious responses in the litigation may be struck only in the observing presence of all parties and their counsel." 350 F. 2d at 812.

U. S. 258, 260, 67 S. Ct. 1558, 1559, 91 L. Ed. 2041, 2043 (1947).

These same considerations are present in the instant case. Here, the petitioning judge has retained his own private counsel. Neither the United States Attorney's office nor counsel for the defendant have sought review in this Court, and both of those parties are here named as respondents. To preserve the integrity of the judicial process, it is essential that the procedures established in *Rapp* be strictly complied with. The trial judges of the Third Circuit have since 1965 been, and petitioner is, bound by the procedures and prohibitions set forth in *Rapp*, and accordingly should not be permitted to become an active participant in this litigation, particularly in these circumstances.

III. The Decision Below Did Not Reach the Important Questions of Federal Law on the Merits of the Silence Order. It Merely Required the Trial Court to Adhere to the Accepted and Usual Course of Judicial Proceedings.

The decision of the Court below did not reach the fundamental fair trial-free press issues raised by the trial court's order. Rather, the opinion merely held that where a silence order is to be imposed against non-parties, the order must be in writing and entered on the docket after notice and hearing.[3]

It is difficult to comprehend petitioner's characterization of such procedures as "unworkably abstract" and "rigidly formal" (Petition, p. 9). They simply incorporate the traditional procedural safeguards of notice, hearing and specificity of restraint. They thus assure that the funda-

3. Compare, *United States v. Columbia Broadcasting System*, 497 F. 2d 102 (5th Cir. 1974), invalidating oral orders barring in-court and out-of-court sketching in the "Gainesville Eight" trial.

mental tenets of due process of law will be satisfied in the most sensitive area of restraints on speech and press, and, assuming arguendo that such a restraint can *ever* be justified in the context of a criminal trial, that such an order will be reduced to writing with such specificity as is required for any injunctive order, and entered on the docket as required in every civil or criminal proceeding.[4]

It was perfectly proper for the Court below to establish such procedural rules in the exercise of its fundamental supervisory power. The "[j]udicial supervision of the administration of criminal justice in the Federal courts implies the duty of establishing and maintaining civilized standards of procedure and evidence." *McNabb v. United States,* 318 U. S. 332, 340, 63 S. Ct. 608, 87 L. Ed. 819, 824 (1942). The broad powers of the federal appellate courts to supervise the administration of criminal justice in the trial courts have been recognized by this Court, see, *e.g., Bartone v. United States,* 375 U. S. 52, 84 S. Ct. 21, 11 L. Ed. 2d 11 (1963), and effectively and beneficially utilized by the Third Circuit Court of Appeals. See *Government of Virgin Islands v. Bodle,* 427 F. 2d 532 (3d Cir. 1970); *cf. United States v. Barber,* 442 F. 2d 517, 528 (3d Cir. 1971); *United States v. Fioravanti,* 412 F. 2d 407, 420 (3d Cir. 1969).[5]

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4. Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 65(d), 79(a); Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure 55.

5. See also *United States v. Columbia Broadcasting System,* 497 F. 2d 107, 109-110 (5th Cir. 1974), where the Court of Appeals, under its "supervisory powers", disallowed the practice of having the district judge himself try for contempt alleged violators of his own oral and unrecorded orders—eventually held to be invalid—banning publication of courtroom sketches.

IV. The Procedural Guidelines Properly Established by the Court Below in the Exercise of Its Supervisory Powers Are in Any Event Mandated by the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

The silence order orally entered by the district court constituted a classic prior restraint on freedom of the press. *New York Times Co. v. United States*, 403 U. S. 713 (1971); *Near v. Minnesota*, 283 U. S. 697 (1931). Petitioner contends that it was not necessary to publish background information on the defendant because such information had already been published previously. However, as this Court has recently declared, the determination of what is "newsworthy" or "important" must be left to the press, not to judges or legislators. *The Miami Herald Publishing Co. v. Tornillo*, — U. S. —, 94 S. Ct. —, 41 L. Ed. 2d 730 (1974).

In any event, as Judge Adams' concurring opinion convincingly demonstrates, the minimal procedural safeguards required by the plurality are mandated by First Amendment considerations. In light of the heavy burden imposed on the party seeking to restrict First Amendment freedoms, *New York Times Co. v. United States, supra*, a hearing on a proposed silence order is essential, and any such order entered must be narrowly and specifically drawn. *Thornhill v. Alabama*, 310 U. S. 88 (1940).

Even in the area of obscenity, which has been excepted from First Amendment protection,[6] this Court has formulated required procedures before materials possibly protected by the First Amendment may be suppressed.[7] *A fortiorari*, the Constitution requires at least equivalent procedural protection when the speech sought to be suppressed

6. *Roth v. United States*, 354 U. S. 476 (1957).

7. *Freedman v. Maryland*, 380 U. S. 51 (1965); *Kingsley Books, Inc. v. Brown*, 254 U. S. 436 (1957). See also, *Grove Press, Inc. v. City of Phila.*, 418 F. 2d 82 (3d Cir. 1969).

is, as here, clearly within the ambit of central First Amendment concern. *Carroll v. President and Commissioners of Princess Anne,* 393 U. S. 175 (1968); *Monaghan,* First Amendment "Due Process", 83 Harv. L. Rev. 518, 519 (1970).

CONCLUSION.

For the reasons above set forth, this Court cannot consider and should not grant the Petition for a Writ of Certiorari.

Respectfully submitted,

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SUPREME COURT, U. S

IN THE

Supreme Court of the United States

OCTOBER TERM, 1974

No. 74-546

THE HONORABLE J. WILLIAM DITTER, JR.,
Petitioner,

v.

PHILADELPHIA NEWSPAPERS, INC. and SUSAN Q. STRANAHAN, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, FREDERICK SCHIAVO,
Respondents.

Petition for a Writ of Certiorari to the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit

MOTION OF AMERICAN NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION FOR LEAVE TO FILE BRIEF AMICUS CURIAE AND BRIEF AMICUS CURIAE OF THE AMERICAN NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

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PRESS OF BYRON S. ADAMS PRINTING, INC., WASHINGTON, D. C.

IN THE

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OCTOBER TERM, 1974

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Respondents.

Petition for a Writ of Certiorari to the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit

---

MOTION OF AMERICAN NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION FOR LEAVE TO FILE BRIEF AMICUS CURIAE

The American Newspaper Publishers Association (hereinafter "ANPA") respectfully moves this Court for leave to file the accompanying Brief Amicus Curiae in opposition to the Petition for Writ of Certiorari filed herein. The consents of the attorney for the Petitioner and of the attorneys for Respondents Philadelphia Newspapers, Inc., Susan Q. Stranahan, and the United States of America have been obtained, but the attorney for Respondent Frederick Schiavo has failed to respond to the ANPA's request for consent to the filing of a brief amicus curiae by the ANPA.

The American Newspaper Publishers Association is a non-profit membership corporation organized and existing under the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Its membership consists of approximately 1,140 daily newspapers and represents more than ninety percent of the total daily and Sunday newspaper circulation in the United States. The Philadelphia *Inquirer* and seventy-nine other newspapers located throughout Pennsylvania hold membership in the ANPA.

The Association concerns itself with matters of general significance to the daily newspaper publishing business and to the profession of journalism. In that regard, the ANPA acts as a clearinghouse of information for its members by disseminating bulletins and research reports on all significant phases and developments of the newspaper business. Frequently, ANPA has taken positions on public matters which affect the interests of its members.

The Association's member newspapers, individually and through the ANPA, are ever vigilant to protect the public's right under the First Amendment to information concerning the activities of government and matters of public interest. The increasing frequency with which trial courts throughout the nation have been issuing orders aimed at restricting the content of news reports concerning criminal trials [1] has been, and continues to be, of great concern to the ANPA and its membership.

Through a brief amicus curiae submitted in support of the appeal and petition of Philadelphia Newspapers,

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[1] *See* Graham, *Gagging the Press in the Courtroom*, The Washington Post, Nov. 17, 1974, at C3.

Inc. and Susan Q. Stranahan below, the ANPA urged the Court of Appeals to vacate the order of the District Court. The Association argued that the District Court's order constituted an invalid prior restraint on publication which resulted from a misconception of the teaching of *Sheppard* v. *Maxwell*, 384 U.S. 333 (1964). Although the Court of Appeals, sitting en banc, did reverse the trial court's order, it did so on procedural grounds. In his Petition for a Writ of Certiorari, the petitioner not only attacks the decision of the Court of Appeals; he also asserts that the Court substantially decided an important question of federal law which has not been settled by this Court, namely the appropriate balance which must be struck between the free press guarantee of the First Amendment and the fair trial guarantee of the Sixth Amendment.

As a representative of over ninety percent of the daily and Sunday newspapers published in the nation, and because of its interest in assuring an unfettered press, the ANPA wishes to briefly set forth its views on this latter issue.

WHEREFORE, the American Newspaper Publishers Association respectfully requests this Court to grant this motion and permit it to file the Brief Amicus Curiae submitted herewith.

Respectfully submitted,

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IN THE

Supreme Court of the United States

OCTOBER TERM, 1974

No. 74-546

THE HONORABLE J. WILLIAM DITTER, JR.,
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PHILADELPHIA NEWSPAPERS, INC. and SUSAN Q. STRANAHAN, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, FREDERICK SCHIAVO,
Respondents.

Petition for a Writ of Certiorari to the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit

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BRIEF AMICUS CURIAE OF THE AMERICAN NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

The American Newspaper Publishers Association (hereinafter "ANPA") submits this brief as amicus Curiae in support of the Brief of Respondents Philadelphia Newspapers, Inc. and Susan Q. Stranahan in Opposition to the Petition for a Writ of Certiorari.

INTEREST OF THE AMICUS CURIAE

As set forth in its motion for leave to file this brief, the ANPA and its member newspapers have a signi-

ficant concern for insuring that the First Amendment's guarantee of a free press shall not be abridged. The order of the District Court from which the present controversy stems was a serious breach of the limits set forth in the First Amendment to prevent the government from interfering with the free flow of information guaranteed by that Amendment. Because of the importance of this issue as it relates to the question sought to be placed before this Court by the Petition for a Writ of Certiorari, the ANPA desires to present to this Court, for its assistance, the Association's views in regard to the important issues involved in this proceeding.

ARGUMENT

At the outset it must be pointed out that the ANPA strongly supports and adopts the position of Respondents Philadelphia Newspapers, Inc. and Susan Q. Stranahan. We believe that their brief persuasively and accurately indicates the jurisdictional inability of Petitioner to seek review in this Court and the sensible policy determinations which make consideration of the Petition inappropriate. Further, the cases cited in Respondent's brief fully substantiate the exercise by the Court of Appeals of its supervisory powers in establishing procedural guidelines.

The Association wishes to emphasize that the judgment of the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit did not substantially decide the important federal question concerning the "Free Press—Fair Trial" dichotomy. If this Court, however, is of the opinion that the free press—fair trial issue so pervaded the proceedings below as to require its consideration, your amicus wishes to set forth the ANPA's

views as to the constitutional invalidity of the trial court's silence order.

The Plurality and Concurring Opinions Below Did Not Decide the Important Constitutional Question as to the Validity of the Silence Order.

Neither the plurality opinion nor the concurring opinion in the Court of Appeals was based on a decision resolving the conflict arising from a confrontation between the fundamental constitutional guarantees of freedom of the press and the right of an accused to a fair trial. The plurality, in the exercise of the Court's supervisory powers, found the oral silence order to be procedurally deficient. The concurring judges found the order invalid inasmuch as the trial judge had failed to comply with the procedural requirements necessitated whenever First Amendment rights are involved.[2]

In both opinions it is clear that the question as to the proper balance to be struck between the guarantees of the First and Sixth Amendments was one which the judges purposefully avoided. The plurality flatly stated: "Our conclusion that this case should be reversed on procedural grounds makes resolution of the constitutional issue unnecessary." (Slip opinion at 9; citation omitted). Although the concurring opinion would have based the decision on First Amendment considerations, it also avoided the free press—fair trial question:

> Also, we should hold, in my judgment, *without intimating any view as to the constitutionality of*

[2] The plurality opinion notes that the procedures which it imposed were especially necessary when First Amendment rights were at stake (Slip opinion at 12), but it was not that issue which compelled the plurality's decision.

> *a limited silence order issued after a hearing embodying the procedural safeguards indicated,* that the order here must fall in any event because its issuance was not preceded by the type of hearing compelled by the First Amendment values at stake. (Slip opinion at 27; emphasis supplied).

Petitioner asserts that, by establishing procedural guidelines to be applied to orders such as that entered by the trial court, the Court of Appeals has "created new obstacles" and "denied trial judges an essential element" of the "power to comply with the dictates of *Sheppard* v. *Maxwell,*" 384 U.S. 333 (1964). So construing the effect of the decision, petitioner contends that the Court gave preference to the First Amendment's guarantee of a free press over the Sixth Amendment's guarantee of fair trial, and thus *did* render a decision on the constitutional question as to the balancing of the two rights.

If the Petitioner's characterization of the effect of the decision of the Court of Appeals were accepted, it might appear that the constitutional question *had* been decided. However, Petitioner's characterizations are unwarranted. By no stretch of the imagination can it be said that the procedural rules imposed by the Court of Appeals deny to trial judges the *power* to issue silence orders. Those rules may create "obstacles" to the issuance of such orders, but such "obstacles" have long been recognized as essential when First Amendment considerations are involved. *See, e.g., Carroll* v. *Commissioners of Princess Anne,* 393 U.S. 175 (1968); *Freedman* v. *Maryland,* 380 U.S. 51 (1965).

In light of the expressed intent of the Court of Appeals to avoid consideration of the constitutional issue and the obvious necessity for its imposition of proce-

dural safeguards, there can be no question that the Court's decision was not based on the resolution of an important federal question.

Review of the Decision of the Court of Appeals Would Require a Finding That the Trial Court's Order Was An Unconstitutional Prior Restraint on the Press.

Although, as your amicus has indicated above, the ANPA does not believe that the decision of the Court of Appeals resolved the important free press — fair trial question, the ANPA is concerned that the decision may be misapplied by other courts in the future. For this reason, your amicus respectfully suggests that, if this Court should grant the petition for certiorari, review should be had of the fundamental constitutional issue as to whether a trial court may ever issue a silence order which restricts the freedom of the press. If such a review were to be granted, the ANPA believes that the answer to this question would have to be in the negative.

Despite the clear statements by the Court of Appeals that it was avoiding resolution of the free press — fair trial issue, the fact that it was concern over that issue which prompted the trial court to enter the silence order will not be ignored by courts and attorneys in the future. The argument will surely be made that the Court of Appeals, by imposing the procedural safeguards which it did, implicitly recognized the ability of a trial judge to restrict the coverage and/or the content of news reports by the press. An order such as that issued by the trial court in this case, however, is clearly an unwarranted intrusion on what the press may publish about an ongoing criminal trial, representing a flagrant prior restraint on the publication of matters of public record and concern.

Previous restraints on the publication of information come before the courts with a heavy presumption of invalidity. *New York Times Co.* v. *United States*, 403 U.S. 713 (1971). That presumption attaches to any order such as that issued by the trial court below. Petitioner asserts that: "Unlike prior restraints against the media's criticism of government, for example, there is simply no discernible vindication of the First Amendment to be found in respondents' conduct." (Petitioner's Brief at 14). This statement flies in the face of the long line of decisions emanating from this Court regarding efforts to restrict and punish press comment in regard to judicial proceedings. *E.g., Craig* v. *Harney*, 331 U.S. 367 (1947); *Pennekamp* v. *Florida*, 328 U.S. 331 (1946); *Bridges* v. *California*, 314 U.S. 252 (1941). In *Sheppard* v. *Maxwell*, *supra*, this Court recognized that publicity can have a prejudicial effect in the context of a criminal trial; nevertheless, recognizing the important role which the press plays, the Court refused to consider restrictions on the freedom of the press as a legitimate means of preventing prejudice:

> A responsible press has always been regarded as the handmaiden of effective judicial administration, especally in the criminal field. Its function in this regard is documented by an impressive record of service over several centuries. The press does not simply publish information about trials but guards against the miscarriage of justice by subjecting the police, prosecutors, and judicial processes to extensive public scrutiny and criticism. This Court has, therefore, been unwilling to place any direct limitations on the freedom traditionally exercised by the news media . . . 384 U.S. at 350.

If the trial court believed that publication of information concerning indictments pending against Mr. Schiavo elsewhere possibly jeopardized the defendant's right to a fair trial, there were alternative remedies available other than the drastic censorship order which the court issued. The court could have sequestered the jury or further cautioned the jury. Such measures were suggested by this Court in *Sheppard,* and the Committee on the Operation of the Jury System has stressed that such techniques should be more liberally utilized by the courts. *Report of the Committee on the Operation of the Jury System on the "Free Press — Fair Trial" Issue,* 45 F.R.D. 391, 412-13 (1969). That Committee also expressly condemned the use of court orders to silence the press. 45 F.R.D. at 401-02.

Freedom of the press as guaranteed by the First Amendment and fair trials as guaranteed by the Sixth Amendment are fundamental rights in our constitutional system; neither may be allowed to take precedence over the other. For that reason, fear of the possible prejudicial effects of news coverage of a criminal proceeding must never be allowed to lead to suppression of the press in the exercise of that institution's right and duty to transmit information to the public. If this Court should grant a review of the decision of the Court of Appeals, the ANPA would earnestly suggest that this Court strongly affirm that basic tenet of constitutional jurisprudence.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully urged that this Court deny the petition for certiorari for the reasons previously stated. Should this Court, however, decide to review the opin-

ion below, your amicus suggests that primary consideration should be given to the Free Press — Fair Trial issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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